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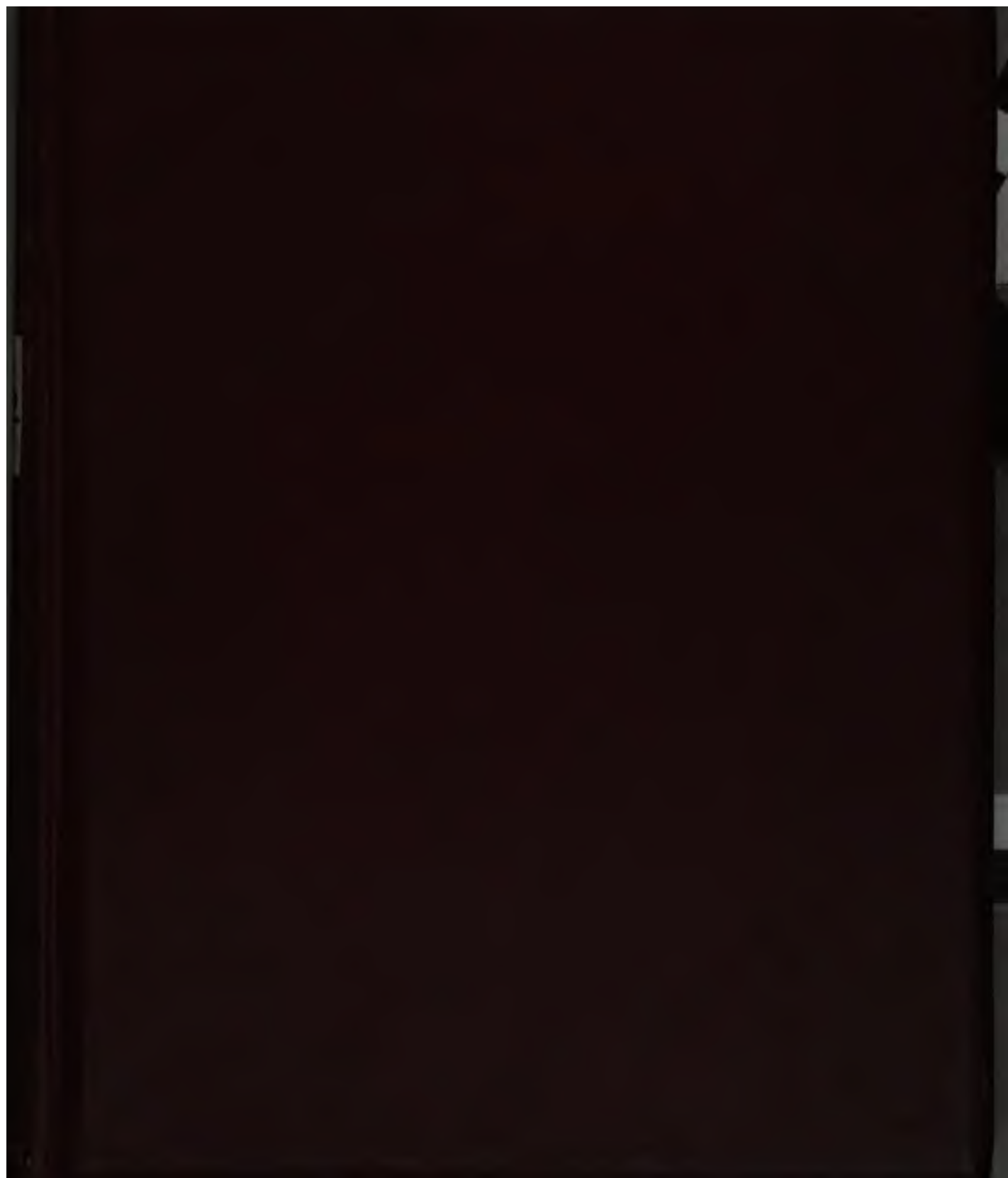
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OF BOSTON

ANNALS OF PENICUIK

o
THE ANNALS OF
PENICUIK

Being a History of the Parish
and of the Village, by

JOHN J. WILSON
BANKER, PENICUIK

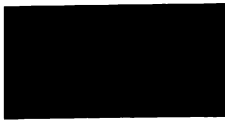


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1891



ANNALS OF PENICUIK

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Gift of
William Everett, Jr.



TO

JOHN COWAN, ESQ. OF BEESLACK

J.P., D.-L. FOR MIDLOTHIAN

DEAR MR. COWAN,—*I dedicate to you this little volume, containing a few brief and imperfect Memorials of the Parish of Penicuik.*

To no other could a book dealing with local matters be so fittingly addressed, for your name is indelibly associated with all the social, political, and religious movements of the last fifty years in our parish.

You are known and will be remembered as one who, above all others, loved our place and its people, and whose heart was ever filled with liberal devising for their welfare.

Believe me to remain,

Respectfully yours,

JOHN J. WILSON.



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P R E F A C E

FEW parishes in the Lowlands of Scotland afford scantier materials for the pen of the historian than that of Penicuik. Situated so near to the metropolis of Scotland, it might naturally be expected that it would have been the scene of many stirring events in Scottish story ; but such records are sought for in vain.

It lay away from the usual paths of invading armies, and it possessed no rich churches or monasteries to tempt the sacrilegious towards it for plunder. In old times the feudal aristocracy were not, with one exception, men who made any mark in the history of their country, and the place of their abode is undistinguished in song or story. But while there have been no bloody battles lost or won within its borders, or deeds of heroism done by any of her sons to chronicle, these pages will, I trust, prove that there is much in the history of Penicuik parish, civil and ecclesiastical, that will be of abiding interest to those who can claim it as their birthplace or their home. To many scattered over the world the memory of our village, its river, and the overshadowing hills, must be sweet as an old song. If amidst the palm groves, or the prairies, or the busy marts of other lands, the perusal of these brief annals afford to any an hour or two of pleasant reflection, and strengthen their attachment to the old home from which

they first started upon 'Life's long race,' the author will be satisfied ; for his purpose in writing this book will, to a large extent, have been gained.

The matter contained in these Annals has been taken from many sources. The following list contains the names of only a few of the authorities consulted:—Register of the Great Seal, Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland, Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, Register of the Privy Council, Exchequer Rolls, Acts of Parliaments of Scotland, Wodrow, Statistical Accounts of Scotland, Reports of the Society of Antiquaries, Rotuli Scotiæ, Chalmers's Caledonia, various publications of the Bannatyne, Abbotsford, and Spalding Clubs, Origines Parochiales (Innes), Forsyth's Beauties of Scotland, Fœdera, Dalkeith Presbytery Records, Penicuik Parish Session Records, etc. etc.

I have been much indebted to local friends for freely communicating to me their recollections of past times. I should be ungrateful if I did not also acknowledge the kindness and courtesy of Dr. Dickson of the Register House ; James T. Clark, Esq., of the Advocates' Library ; and J. M. Gray, Esq., Curator of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. I would not be unmindful of the willing assistance I ever received in the Edinburgh Subscription Library from its esteemed librarian, Mr. George M'Whea ; and, above all, do I tender my best thanks to the Rev. Alexander Thomson Grant of the Parsonage, Leven, for many valuable contributions from his stores of historical and antiquarian lore, sent me at a time when I did not myself know the sources from which trustworthy information could be obtained.

JOHN J. WILSON.



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ANNALS



CHAPTER I.

TOPOGRAPHY OF THE PARISH.

IT has been frequently said that the parish of Penicuik, in the shire of Midlothian, bore at one time the name of St. Mungo. Such is the statement in the *New Statistical Account* of the parish, which was written in 1839 by the Rev. W. Scott Moncrieff; while the writer of the old *Statistical Account* in 1793, the Rev. Thomas M'Courty, quotes Sir James Clerk as having been of that opinion. The assertion has been frequently repeated; but it has no documentary evidence in its favour. It is probable that the first primitive church-building erected in the district may have been dedicated to that saint; and it is of course possible that the name may have been applied to a portion of the land surrounding it: but at best this is only a supposition. It is moreover positively known that in the eleventh century the barony, then co-equal with the parish, was called Penicok. This word, according to the best authorities, was originally spelt Pen-y-coc, signifying the Hill of the Cuckoo, and the name was probably suggested to our ancient British ancestors by the number of these birds frequenting the native woodlands in spring-time.

At first the name might only be applied to some hillock or upland, but when afterwards the country was divided into parishes it would no doubt be readily accepted, by those whose duty it was to

supply their nomenclature, as being suitable for the whole of the newly defined area. It has been stated that the parish of Glen-corse was at a subsequent period formed from certain sections of land taken from Penicuik and Pentland, but this record is not authentic. So far as can be ascertained, the boundaries of Penicuik as originally fixed continued undisturbed until about the middle of the seventeenth century. At that period the small parishes of Mount Lothian and St. Catherine's were suppressed, and annexed to Penicuik. In consequence of these changes in the original plan of the parish, its boundaries now present a very curious and irregular outline, including within them a total area of 18,966½ acres of hill and dale, moorland, and cultivated land.

Any one desirous of studying the physical features of the parish of Penicuik could not do better than place himself on a summit of one or other of the symmetrical and beautiful Pentland hills which traverse it from north-east to south-west. From this vantage-point he would see the whole area of the parish spread out as a map before him. If, to begin with, he sought to study its Hydrography, he could trace the river Esk flowing through it in a south-easterly direction, and with its tributary streams and wooded banks giving diversity and beauty to the landscape. Not far from its source, and unflooded by more than one little rivulet, it would be seen entering the grounds of Newhall, made famous as the scene of Ramsay's beautiful Scottish pastoral. Flowing onwards, its stream increased by the Carlops Burn, and the Monks or Nine-mileburn, it passes beneath Marfield Loch, the only natural sheet of water in the parish, and with the physical peculiarity of having no apparent means of inlet or outlet. After disappearing into the beautifully wooded policies of Penicuik, and before it finally leaves the parish, the further channel of the river is deepened and widened by its other tributaries, the Harkenburn, Silverburn, Hareburn, and

Blackburn. There would also be visible to the spectator on the hill, the dome-like enclosures at Saltersike and Silverburn, covering the copious springs from which the village of Penicuik receives its plentiful supply of excellent water. Within the grounds of Sir George Clerk there might be hidden from his sight by their fringe of woodland the three beautiful artificial lakes known as Hurly Cove and the Low and High Ponds. The first and last mentioned were made by Baron Sir John Clerk, and were favourite resorts of that learned antiquarian. The High Pond is a lovely sheet of water, extending to over six acres, and much enhances the attractiveness of the policies surrounding the mansion-house.

The springs of water throughout the parish are also numerous, and it cannot be doubted that their presence has been an important factor in the development of the paper-making industry, thus having a bearing upon the prosperity of the whole district.

Passing on to notice other physical features of the parish, the eye of the observer would be gratified by the wealth of woodland which enriches the landscape. On the Penicuik estate alone there are 1273 acres of trees, fairly well distributed in belts of planting over its entire area. This useful rural improvement upon the property of the Clerk family was begun some two hundred years ago by the first Baronet of that name. It was developed to a considerable extent by his son and grandson, especially in the vicinity of the mansion-house, but it remained to their descendant, the late Right Honourable Sir George Clerk, to extend to its present limits the enlightened system of laying down strips and clumps of trees for the benefit of shelter, and for the purpose of beautifying his estate generally. On the Newhall property, situated in the south-west of the parish, the woodlands, which were at one time fairly abundant, are now unfortunately

becoming thin, and as much in need of replanting as the soil around them is in want of draining.

It will undoubtedly be a matter of regret to the intelligent observer that a large portion of the land of the parish still remains in a state of nature. The existence of such wet masses as Harlaw Muir, Auchencorth Moss, Springfield, Wellington, Halls, and Rosemay Muirs, with the additional 268 acres of unreclaimed ground at Mountlothian, must, it is to be feared, affect adversely the climate of the district. In consequence of so much wild land lying to the south and south-east, it is not surprising that although much of it is hidden from view by strips of plantation, the bleakest portion of the parish is that approached by the Lamancha road at Leadburn, called in olden times Leck-bernard. My readers may be familiar with the description given of it in *The Strange Adventures of a Phaeton*, by William Black the novelist. He there speaks of the little inn and its surroundings as 'a cut-throat-looking place, calculated to impress the traveller with awe and terror.' This exaggerated account, from the diary of a weary and hungry traveller, written under unfavourable atmospheric conditions, is no true picture of the place; but it is satisfactory to be able to record that since that time much has been done by the proprietors of the small estates of Stellanow and Leadburn Park to beautify and improve the amenities of this upland portion of our parish.

In writing of the physical features of a parish it is customary to give some account of its Flora and Fauna, as well as of its Geology and Mineralogy. In consideration, however, of the number of books already published by specialists dealing in an exhaustive and scientific manner with these subjects, as they are found, not in Penicuik parish only, but in Midlothian generally, it is needless to give a further description of them in this volume.

In another chapter allusion is made to the working of coal, but it may be mentioned here that limestone was also quarried and burnt for a considerable period at the kilns of Fullerton and Mountlothian. The competition, however, which ultimately arose from quarries more favourably situated in regard to their proximity to railway stations finally made local traffic unremunerative, and the kilns are rapidly becoming unfit for further service. Extensive beds of sand and gravel exist quite close to the village, and are worked by local contractors. There are also several valuable quarries of freestone throughout the parish, notably that at Marfield, from which were taken the stones to build a portion of Penicuik House and much of the present village, and which still affords abundant material to supply the needs of the district.

Apart from the natural beauties of wood and water and hedgerows, which would delight the eye of the spectator as he gazed down from the Pentland steeps upon our parish, several other objects of interest might arrest his attention. Embowered amidst its woods might be seen the turrets of the mansion of Newhall—a building rich in its associations with men eminent in letters and in art who used to reside within its walls, the guests of a former proprietor. Farther down the river, the crumbling ruins of Brunstane Castle would remind him of the feudal times, when a Crichton finessed and plotted within them, regardless of his country's weal, so long as his own ambition was satisfied.

On the other side of the Esk, and directly eastwards, the handsome obelisk at Ravensneuk, dedicated to Allan Ramsay, would recall the fact that the Clerks of Penicuik as well as the Forbeses of Newhall were the patrons and friends of that faithful delineator of the manners and customs of the rustics of a past generation. The beautiful spire at the offices of Penicuik House

might reasonably suggest to the onlooker the proximity of a place for Divine worship rather than a stable. At first designed by Sir James Clerk for the parish church at Penicuik, but its erection there being forbidden by his fellow-heritors, the Baronet determined to see the creation of his brain in stone and lime, and hence the presence of this unusual and imposing structure at the entrance to the stable-yard. Opposite it is the large dome representative of Arthur's O'on, fully described in another chapter; while behind is the stately tower erected by Baron Clerk as a landmark, as well as to serve the useful purpose of a dovecot for his family. Most imposing of all, however, is the mansion-house of Penicuik—one of the finest houses, if not indeed the very finest, in all the shire. The central portion of it was designed and built in 1761 by Sir James Clerk, the third Baronet, after his return from a long residence in Italy, with a mind enriched by classical tastes and ideas. The two wings were erected under the supervision of Mr. David Bryce, an Edinburgh architect, in 1857, but they do not improve the general appearance of the building.

The fine taste of Sir James was further shown in the internal treatment of his princely mansion. The rich mural decorations by Alexander Runciman, in the drawing-room known as Ossian's Hall, are familiar to all students of decorative art, while the adornment by the same artist of one of the cupolas surmounting the staircase with scenes from the life of Queen Margaret is remarkable for its richness of tone and dramatic power of illustration.

The house itself contains a rich store of antiquarian and artistic treasures, all of which have been very ably described in a recent publication by Mr. John M. Gray, F.S.A., the cultured Curator of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

Newbigging House, the residence of former proprietors, occu-

pied a site close behind the present mansion. A sketch of this picturesque and interesting old building, by John Clerk of Eldin, has happily been preserved, and is reproduced in the volume of his etchings printed by the Bannatyne Club.

In its time it also was the finest family residence in Midlothian. It was in all probability erected by Lord President Preston, shortly after he acquired the Penicuik estate in 1609.

If, before allowing his eye finally to rest upon the village of Penicuik, nestling under the very shadow of the hills upon which he stands, our intelligent observer looked again towards the southern limits of the parish, his attention might be arrested by a large group of red brick buildings, known as the Wellington Reformatory Farm School. This excellent institution was founded in the year 1859 for the reformation of juvenile offenders. Owing much to the enlightened efforts of the late Sheriff Cleghorn, the late Bailie Thomas Russell, and Mr. John Cowan of Beeslack, aided by the energy and Christian influence of its late excellent Superintendent, Mr. John Craster, it has from small beginnings grown to be a large and beneficial agency, not only for the eradication of habits of vice, but for training its inmates in handicrafts which fit them for a useful and successful career in after-life. In the thirty years of its existence nearly 900 lads have passed through the Wellington Reformatory. While not a few of them, by industry and good conduct, occupy important appointments at home, many others, owing to the wise provision made by the Directors for emigration, have attained to positions of comfort and influence in other lands. The training received by the lads in agricultural work, boot-making, and other handicrafts, fit them in an especial manner for after success in life. Although 830 feet above sea-level, the system of farming adopted and carried on by them, under experienced supervision, has

resulted in a marvellous improvement of the lands belonging to the institution. Where, thirty years ago, a few sheep and cattle struggled for a scanty subsistence on the wet and peaty soil, heavy crops of cereals, turnips, and potatoes are now produced. The large boot-factory, with machinery driven by steam-power, turns out annually boots and shoes to the value of nearly £3000. Primary as well as technical instruction is not forgotten, and Government reports continue most favourable year by year as to the passes of the lads in the ordinary educational subjects.

Mr. Craster, the first Governor of the Wellington, died on the 2d of July 1890, regretted by all who knew him, and by none more than those lads whose master and helper he had been. The Directors unanimously appointed his son, Mr. John Craster, to succeed him as Governor.

CHAPTER II.

THE VILLAGE OF PENICUIK.

HAVING thus gone over in detail the various objects and landmarks visible to the observer placed upon the heights above, it will be no longer necessary, when writing on the subject of the village and its concerns, as also upon the other matters connected with the internal economy of the parish, to describe them as to an onlooker.

While, unfortunately, not a market town, and as a business place none the better for its close proximity to the metropolis, the village of Penicuik, as a principal seat of the great paper-making industry, cannot be considered unimportant or unknown.

The earliest allusion to its existence is contained in a letter preserved amongst the historical documents of Scotland, and referred to in a subsequent chapter. It gives evidence as to the favourable attitude of the people of the place towards their English oppressors in the days of Sir William Wallace. The probability is, that what is therein dignified by the name of a town was little more than a hamlet or cluster of cottages occupied by the husbandmen and vassals of the Laird. Neither is it likely that it was built upon any portion of the site of the present one. The lawlessness of the times, and the consequent insecurity of the country, necessitated the grouping together of the

houses occupied by the cultivators of the soil in the immediate proximity of the baronial residences, for the purpose of mutual protection.

The tower of Rikillis or Terregles, the old home of the Penicuiks of that Ilk, occupied the high ground, now covered with trees, approached from the side of the Esk by what is known as the Thirty Steps, and it is more than probable that the old village was situated somewhere near to that place. As already indicated, its inhabitants would be few in number, for even so recently as the middle of last century the entire population of the parish was only 850 souls. It is known that in the year 1745 only one house existed between the old Penicuik farm-house (now the Store Drapery) and Auchendinny Bridges.

Subsequent to that time, probably about the year 1770, Sir James Clerk, while carrying out other enlightened improvements upon his estate, planned and laid out a portion of the village as it now stands, giving at the same time pecuniary assistance towards the erection of not a few of the buildings. He also induced a doctor to settle in it, building him a house to dwell in, and providing a large park to graze his horse in the summer. This gentleman continued in the practice of his profession in Penicuik until after the death of the Baronet in 1782. About eight years subsequent to that event, Mr. Robert Renton, formerly surgeon in the navy, also settled down in Penicuik. For a time he had a considerable struggle to obtain a foothold, but, being successful in some difficult operations, he finally made such inroads on the business of his rival that the latter left the district. Mr. Renton thereafter took over his house and park, and in course of years acquired considerable wealth. He had a large family, five of his sons adopting their father's profession, several of them attaining to eminence in it.

Mr. Renton was followed by many able and valued practitioners in Penicuik. The names of Doctors Madden, Monteith, Alison, Symington, Thin, Messer, M'Rae, and Kennedy will readily suggest themselves to parishioners who in the past have benefited by their skill. At the present time the profession is ably represented by Doctors Badger, Willins, and Riddell.

The first trustworthy plan of the village of Penicuik was prepared in the year 1796, and its comparison with those of modern date is most interesting. It presents the main street or High Street much as it is now. John Street, or The Loan, extending from the hotel corner northwards, contained on both sides only thirteen houses, all of them apparently one story in height. In Bank Street there had been erected three small buildings. West Street, back and front, contained twelve houses, while Back Mill Lands had seven. In the Square there were thirteen buildings, big and little, scattered around. Bridge Street was not in existence, with the exception of the portion between Thorburn Terrace and the exit from Back Mill Lands, and on that space only one small house had been erected. About fifty yards down from the corner of the high land of the Terrace a hedge closed the way; the ground behind it, now covered by the houses on both sides of the street, was in grass, and was included in what was then known as Laurie's Farm, the buildings of which were removed in the year 1840. The way by Back Mill Lands then led to a point about thirty-seven yards from the Esk, where it turned to Valleyfield Mill, and thereafter continued for about 173 yards, until its junction with the other road from the village by the Delve Brae. Half-way, and near to where once stood the old corn-mill, a newly made road struck off to Howgate across the mill-lade, the river Esk, and Blackburn, permitting for the first time of direct traffic to the south. What is now the road to

Edinburgh by The Loan or John Street, then terminated at Cuicken Farm. The only existing way to the metropolis in those days, and for many years afterwards, was that by Kirkhill and Harpersbrae, which joined the main road to the north at Maybank.

The direct route westwards was that leading up past the Episcopal chapel, through the Penicuik policies, continuing above the river by Brunstane, Marfield, and Newhall. All the ground between the village and the high park, now included in Mr. Robert Henderson's farm, was laid off in market gardens and crofts, occupied by William Brown, John Grant, John White, and others. A meal-mill existed near to the site of the present Bank Mill, at which the feuars were obliged by their lease or charter to get their corn gristed. They had also the privilege of casting their peats in the Bog Moss, now covered by the wood bearing that name.

The spring of water in High Street, known as the Old Well, was then enclosed by only four slabs of stone, and the street being lower than it is now, the water ran across it, and found its way down through the Bog and into the river. Snipe and other wild birds then freely frequented its channel in the winter season. In 1809 Mr. Alexander Cowan of Valleyfield erected a substantial stone covering over the well, and this was replaced by the present handsome building in 1864, when, by the munificent legacy of that gentleman, the water from Sillerburn was brought into the village. The opening ceremony upon that occasion was performed by the late Mr. Charles Cowan. A pair of pitchers was offered by him to the first bride who as a wife carried water from the new well. These were won by Isabel Burton, after her marriage with John Donaldson, baker in Penicuik.

The sanitary arrangements of the village at the close of last century, and even on to a period within living memory, were of a very primitive kind. A large open drain used to run down through

Wilson Square, in front of Mr. Cowe's shop. It passed Mr. Tait's property, and thence into the Bog, finding an exit somewhere in the low ground beneath. Middensteads existed upon the streets, and innumerable pigsties were to be seen in close proximity to the dwellings of their owners.

One hundred years ago the entire population of the parish slightly exceeded 1700, and of that number possibly about a half would be resident in Penicuik and Kirkhill. The latter suburb had then been recently built to accommodate the cotton-spinners at Esk Mills. The valued rental of the parish a century ago was £2110 sterling. In the present year, according to the abstract prepared by the county assessor, it is £25,191, with an additional sum of £2838 for railways and waterworks.

In the year 1817 occurs the first mention of Penicuik as a post town. Prior to that time the delivery of letters was made at Maybank by the Dumfries coach as it passed by from the metropolis. Inhabitants of the village and parish who were in the habit of conducting correspondence had accordingly, in addition to the high rate of postage which then prevailed, to pay messengers to carry their letters to and from the primitive post-office, at what is now Mr. Clapperton's farm-house.

In 1817 a daily delivery began between Edinburgh and Penicuik, and the mails were placed in charge of a Mrs. Rankine. Shortly afterwards the office of postmaster was given to Mr. J. Dodds of the hotel, and after his death it passed in succession to Mr. Paterson, Mr. Jenkinson, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Robertson. The position has now been held for many years by Mr. John Robertson, son of the last named.

The first mention of Hiring Fairs in Penicuik is in the almanac of 1802. Then, as now, they were held on the third Friday of March and the first Friday of October. Within the

recollection of middle-aged inhabitants, the gatherings of farmers and their servants on the village streets upon these occasions were very great. Confectionery stands and travelling shows filled the space from the church to the well, and visitors from all directions added to the throng.

This condition of things, however, no longer continues. The shows and merry-go-rounds are relegated to the park behind the Royal Hotel, and the agricultural community have almost entirely ceased to put in an appearance.

Prior to 1845 the streets of the village depended in great measure for their light in the dark evenings on the illumination shed from the lamps in the shop-windows. Fifteen years before that date gas had been introduced into the paper-mills, and in 1835 the parish church was also lighted with it. It was not, however, until ten years later that this valuable light was adopted by the villagers generally. It was from the first manufactured and supplied by Messrs. Cowan and Sons at Valleyfield Mills, and it continued in their hands until the formation of the Penicuik and District Gas Company in the year 1877.

Prior to the introduction of the regular county police as guardians of law and order in the village, this duty devolved upon a number of special constables, acting under the Bailie of the Barony, but their services were seldom if ever required. A monthly Court was held in the Parish School, now the Volunteer Armoury, and there are many yet alive who remember Bailie Disher presiding upon these occasions with all the solemnity becoming so exalted a position, and passing judgment upon the offenders brought before him by old Fiscal Robertson. The school-boys had a holiday upon the Court days, and they were generally very ready to superintend the conveyance of drunk and disorderly individuals by John Sinton, the constable, to their night's incar-

ceration in the dismal apartment beneath the steeple of the old kirk.

Since the abolition of the Bailie Court all offenders against the peace, as well as debtors and defaulting parents, are proceeded against in the Edinburgh Sheriff Court. At the present time, however, the Police Commissioners of the Burgh are considering the necessity of putting into local operation the jurisdiction clauses of the General Police and Improvement (Scotland) Act, 1862, which they now administer. Many of my readers will recollect what a storm of angry and excited feeling was raised in the village when a majority of the ratepayers decided to move in the direction of obtaining the introduction of the Act. Several prominent citizens had for long been dissatisfied that no form of local and representative government existed in a place so important as Penicuik, and in consequence set the necessary machinery agoing to remedy this defect. A section of the inhabitants were however bitterly opposed to their action, and very considerable opposition ensued. Mr. Thomas Penman was one of the leading dissentients, and he was afterwards presented with a silver snuff-box by those who sympathised with his active and unwearied hostility to the new form of government. The Act was finally adopted, and the first meeting of the Commissioners was held on 18th March 1867. Mr. Charles Cowan of Valleyfield was elected Senior Magistrate, a position which, upon his retirement, devolved upon, and has ever since been held by, his son, Mr. Charles W. Cowan. Mr. Thomas Hall, merchant, and Mr. John Paterson, banker, were chosen as Junior Magistrates, while Messrs. Charles Lawson, Robert Veitch, John Laing, and Henry Symington constituted the remaining four members of Commission. It may be mentioned here that the present police force of the parish is composed of one inspector and three con-

stables, all under the control of the chief of the county police. There are also three Justices of the Peace for the parish,—Sir George D. Clerk, Bart., Mr. Charles W. Cowan of Loganhouse, and Mr. John J. Wilson, banker. The last mentioned is member for the burgh in the County Council, while Mr. Charles Buchanan of The Gardens represents there the landward portion of the parish.

Along with the increase of population the trade of the village has correspondingly developed. In old times the pend leading down from Bank Street to High Street was the only butcher's shop in the parish. When a sheep or ox was killed it was customary to send through a man with a bell to announce to the inhabitants that the meat was for sale. The carcasses were meantime suspended from the stout oaken beams which supported the floor of the house above. These supports continue even now in a good and sound condition, and the marks of the ropes are still visible upon them. This primitive style of business was supplanted during the first quarter of the present century by the opening of regular butchery establishments by Mr. Symington and others. Shops for the sale of bread, grocery, drapery, and ironmongery goods also multiplied, and it is worthy of remark that several of the business concerns in existence in those old times are presently carried on by the descendants of those who founded them. The most extraordinary and successful of all the commercial ventures in the village has been that of the Co-operative Association. An account of its origin and progress has been printed in pamphlet form, and it is there recorded that in the year 1859 four paper-workers, named James M'Beath, Andrew Cowan, Joseph M'Diarmid, and James Skinner, met from time to time in each other's houses for the purpose of discussing the principles of Co-operation as carried on by the Rochdale pioneers. They finally determined to advocate the benefits of the system among their

fellow-workers, and amongst others they sought the counsel and assistance of Robert Veitch and Stephen Cranston. The ultimate identification of these two shrewd and intelligent men with the movement went far to make the venture the success it afterwards proved. On 24th April 1860 arrangements were so far complete that a meeting was summoned in Mr. White's hall for the enrolment of members. On 2d June of the same year a meeting of shareholders was held, at which a scheme of association was drawn up, and a committee appointed, consisting of Robert Veitch, treasurer; James Skinner, secretary; Alexander Forbes, Alexander Clapperton, Stephen Cranston, Joseph M'Diarmid, Andrew Cowan, David Smail, James Cossar, and Alexander Porteous. Mr. Cranston was elected chairman. A small shop was secured in old Thorburn Terrace, and opened two nights a week for the first three months, the committee serving the customers in turn. On 5th July 1860 the association was fairly floated with a membership of forty-eight and a capital of £61, 5s. The total sales for the first year amounted to £795, 11s. 8½d., and the profits to £24, 4s. 5½d., yielding a bonus to members of 4½d. per pound upon their purchases. It is needless to describe in detail the struggles of these early pioneers of Co-operation in our village, or to chronicle the development year by year of their business; suffice to say that it progressed by leaps and bounds. A glance at the present position of the society will sufficiently explain its success. Its report for the half-year ending 13th March 1890 states that the capital at that date was £31,125, 10s.; sales for the six months, £32,438, 10s. 8½d.; profits for corresponding period, £6317, 0s. 11½d.; and reserve fund, £1993, 2s. 2½d. Branch establishments have been opened in Loanhead and Roslin. The *employés* in all the various departments of business carried on by the association number over eighty, all being under the

personal superintendence of Mr. Andrew M'Gregor, the present excellent manager.

Considerable enterprise has also been shown in our village from time to time in the engineering and building departments of business by Messrs. Paterson, M'Gill, Laing, Lawson, Ewart, and Tait. The last-named gentleman many years ago purchased the old foundry buildings, used as cavalry barracks at the time when the French prisoners were at Valleyfield, fitting them up with elaborate machinery for sawing, planing, and moulding timber. As many as seventy and eighty workmen have frequently been employed there by Mr. Tait in the various departments of the building industry carried on by him. Messrs. Ewart and Son also go largely into the cutting and sawing of wood by steam-power, besides carrying on their ordinary work as carpenters.

A branch of the Edinburgh and Leith Bank was opened in the village before the middle of the present century, and Mr. James Symington was appointed to the agency. In 1844 the business of the Glasgow Joint-Stock Bank became amalgamated with the former, under the title of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank. This joint concern continued thereafter to be represented in our village by Mr. Symington until the date of his death. He was succeeded in the agency by Mr. John Paterson, a man of great vigour and public spirit. The Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank developed into a successful concern, but in the commercial panic of 1857 the directors proved unable to cope with the crisis, and its valuable business fell into the hands of the Clydesdale Bank. The branch at Penicuik was continued by the latter company under Mr. Paterson's charge until his death in the spring of the year 1878, when the directors appointed the author of this volume as agent. It is noticeable that all the three gentlemen who have been identified with banking interests in Penicuik were members of




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families who have been for many generations resident in the parish.

After thus attempting to place before my readers an account of the village and its commercial progress, it is fitting that a short space should be devoted to a description of the educative and literary opportunities which from time to time have been placed within reach of its citizens.

For about fifty years, with occasional breaks, a Debating Society existed in the village. It has unfortunately come to an end, but many there are, both at home and abroad, who trace much of their success in public life to the confidence they acquired in giving audible expression to their opinions on the various subjects brought before the meetings of the Society in Valleyfield School-room. Perhaps it reached its point of greatest popularity about twenty years ago, having then had a membership exceeding fifty, and many of those members men possessing the gift of great natural eloquence. None who, like the writer, were privileged to attend these meetings, will readily forget the absorbing interest of the debates, or the culture exhibited in the treatment of literary subjects.

In the month of February 1853 there appeared the first number of the *Penicuik and Valleyfield Monthly Journal of Literature, Science, and Art*. This somewhat ambitious publication consisted of twelve small pages, and the arrangement and composition of its articles, not always confined to the subjects on its title-page, showed considerable ability. Notwithstanding its modest price of one penny, its editors did not find sufficient encouragement to continue its publication beyond ten months. Local news are now supplied through the medium of the *Peeblesshire Advertiser* and *Midlothian Journal*, both of which devote a portion of their columns to Penicuik.



Another literary entertainment has been the winter course of Lectures. The initial move in what has since proved such an interesting and valuable educative influence was made by the late Rev. David Duncan of Howgate. In a letter written to Mr. John Cowan, on 16th July 1852, he suggested the propriety and desirableness of a village like that of Penicuik having such a course, offering himself to give a series of eight lectures on the 'Natural History of Man.' Mr. Cowan took up the scheme warmly, and a committee was very soon formed to carry out the necessary arrangements. It consisted of Rev. W. Scott Moncrieff, Rev. D. Duncan, Rev. T. Girdwood, Rev. A. Mackenzie, Dr. Symington, Dr. Alison, Messrs. John Wilson, Eastfield, John Paterson, James Jackson, Thomas M'Dougal, Adam Cranston, Alexander Anderson, James Ramage, and Thomas Chalmers, with Mr. John Cowan as treasurer.

The first course, 1852-53, contained fifteen lectures, and at their conclusion a statement of accounts was read by the treasurer, showing a creditor balance of £6, 17s. 2d. Mr. Charles Cowan, M.P., in proposing a vote of thanks to the committee, especially complimented Mr. Duncan for his valuable services in initiating and contributing to such a successful and interesting course. Mr. Duncan's services were afterwards more substantially recognised by a presentation of a selection of valuable books.

In the years immediately following, prominent strangers like Gerald Massey, Stevenson Macadam, and Professor Blackie, and intelligent residents like Mr. John Wilson of Eastfield, Dr. Donaghy, Dr. Thin, and Mr. Charles Howden, lectured to large and appreciative audiences in the Parish School.

So popular were these lectures that they were continued without a break until the year 1865. After an interval of three years they were resumed for a like period, after which they were discon-

tinued until 1883. In the winter of that year they were begun again with renewed vigour. The services of prominent lecturers like Archibald Forbes, Oscar Wilde, Rev. David Macrae, Professor Blackie, and many others, were secured from time to time during successive years, and the consequence was continuous and absorbing interest shown on the part of the public. Owing to the gloom cast over the district by the Mauricewood Pit disaster of 5th September 1889, the committee thought it wise not to have the usual course last year, but they have again presented an attractive syllabus for the present winter.

Another useful institution was the Village Library, so long carried on by Mr. James Jackson and his much-respected daughters, the Misses Jackson. It was formed in the year 1797 by Mr. Alexander Cowan of Valleyfield, and one or two others interested in the place and neighbourhood. It continued for a long period thereafter to be a prized possession of the Penicuik citizens. In the year 1837 it contained 1200 volumes, and had fifty regular subscribers, and for thirty years afterwards its literature was freely taken advantage of by a large circle of members. During that period valuable libraries had also been formed in connection with the Dissenting congregations of Howgate and Bridgend. Book clubs had been formed. Literature was year by year increasing in volume and cheapness. Circulating libraries in Edinburgh were offering inducements to Penicuik people to join them. These and other causes finally produced a weakening interest in our venerable village institution. Its membership decreased, many of its books bore evidence of their octogenarian age, and considerable outlay for renewals had to be faced. Gradually the necessity for terminating its existence was forced upon the minds of the remaining members, and accordingly in the year 1879 the books were dispersed and the library closed.

CHAPTER III.

ANTIQUITIES.

THERE are not many prehistoric remains to be found in this parish. On the Harkenburn, within the Penicuik grounds, there can, however, be seen evidences of circular formations, which may possibly be of early British origin. On the farm of Braidwood also, on the summit of a low hill, there are the remains of an oval camp 84 yards long by 67 broad, enclosing a number of tumuli 11 yards each in diameter. It has three entries, and has been encompassed by ditches about four yards each in width. It is frequently referred to by the country people as the Roman camp or castle, but as these were square, it is unlikely that their surmises can have any foundation in fact. It may belong to early times, but more probably it has been a place erected for the safety of cattle during the troublous days in Scotland, when predatory incursions from the borders were of frequent occurrence. Fortalices or castles existed at Penicuik, Brunstane, Braidwood, Ravensneuk, Coaltown, and Loganhouse, and it is quite likely that the owners of some of these would make provision for the protection of their vassals and their cattle within these strong and high walls, the mere foundations of which are only now visible to the student of antiquity. There has been some evidence, however, of Roman remains in another quarter of the parish. In the year 1801, when a foundation was being dug for the present farm-house at Paties-

hill, four flags with a cover were laid open, enclosing an urn of coarse glazed yellowish brown earthenware, with two ears to lift it by, having a rude representation of a man's face on each of them. It contained ashes, and near to it were two iron spurs of an uncommon form. A little way below the house there were then to be seen also the remains of a kiln for drying corn. It was considered by antiquaries of that period to have been the site of a Roman camp or redoubt. Alexander Gordon, in his *Itinerarium* (published 1726-1732), says that one of their stations was at Whitfield, a mile and a half distant; and as a fort at the entrance of the valley would be of great strategic importance, it is very probable that the theory on this subject was correct. As these places which have 'car' or 'caer' affixed to their names are often in the neighbourhood of Roman stations, it is reasonable to suppose also that the village of Carlops, or rather the ground whereon the village stands, may have been so called.

Another object of antiquarian interest, and a connecting link with those far-off times when Newhall and its monastery were occupied by the Cistercian monks, is the stone which is still to be seen on the top of Monks Ridge, near to the old path which crosses the hill. It is of oblong form, with deep indentations, evidently meant for the knees of the worshippers at a cross which originally stood in the centre of the stone, but which has long since disappeared. In the year 1833, two shepherds, by name John Tod and James Aitken, turned over the stone with levers, and were rewarded by obtaining possession of a few copper coins. I have been unable to trace the subsequent history of these coins, or to ascertain the date of their coinage.

The large dome which forms part of the offices at Penicuik House, though not in itself an object of antiquarian interest, is still worthy of notice as the only existing representation or model

of what was in its time the oldest building in Scotland. This curious-looking beehive structure was built last century by Sir James Clerk, as a facsimile of the famous Arthur's O'on, which stood on the river Carron. The origin, and still more the reputed inscription on this curious building, had been frequently a matter for serious discussion between Baron Sir John Clerk and his antiquarian friend Gordon, author of the *Itinerarium*. The latter, I may say, believed the O'on to have been a Roman temple erected to Agricola. It was pulled down by the Laird of Stonehouse in 1743, and its materials were used by him in the building of a dam.

MOUNT LOTHIAN CHAPEL.

Little now remains to mark the site of the old church and churchyard,—the dike, which was with pious care built round them by a former proprietor, having almost entirely disappeared. The situation of the walls, most of which were taken to build the neighbouring farm-steading, can still, however, be traced, and sufficient interest is shown in the old place by those living in the district to warrant me in including it in the chapter on Antiquities. The country round having always been thinly peopled, the old parish church of Mount Lothian (sometimes by a mistaken tradition called Monkslothian) was of little value, being rated in the ancient taxation at only twelve merks.

Mr. Cosmo Innes, in his *Origines Parochiales*, mentions that the land surrounding it was given by King William the Lion, about the year 1180, to the Cistercian monks of Newbattle; but it is likely, I think, that the transaction which he quotes would only be a confirmation granted by the king. It was the law of Scotland that no grant by a vassal, given by way of mortification, could stand without the consent of his superior, and it appears probable that Mount Lothian belonged at a very early period to

the Lords of Restalrig, who gifted portions of it to the Newbattle ecclesiastics.

The following is a rough translation of a very old undated Latin charter by Edward of Restalrig and Mount Lothian, making such a conveyance :—

“To the Faithful of Holy Church Edward of Restalrig—greeting : And be it known to posterity, and to those now living, that I have given and by charter have confirmed as a gift to the Church of St. Mary at Newbattle, and the religious thereto attached, the half of Mountludyan in the woodland, in the plain, in the meadows and pastures, in waters, in roads, and in footways, together with all the cut timber to such land appertaining, and one toft in Leith, for the wellbeing of my soul, and for the souls of my wife and heirs, and for the souls of my father and mother and my predecessors, as alms, for all time coming, to be possessed by them in freedom and in peace from all taxation and such usages.”

In the year 1223 an exchange of certain of their properties was effected between the monks of Holyrood and Newbottle, by which the former obtained Mount Lothian in excambion for the lands of Romanoch [Romanno]. In April 1251, David, bishop of St. Andrews, fixed stipends to be paid to the vicars serving the churches belonging to the Abbey of Holyrood, and in the case of Mount Lothian he made provision that when the Church had not means to support a vicar, it should be served by a sufficient chaplain. The insufficiency of its revenues caused an arrangement of this kind to be frequently necessary. Even in more recent days the minister of Penicuik had Mount Lothian occasionally in charge, and at other times readers were appointed to conduct the services.

After the Reformation—an event which severed its connection with Holyrood—the cure was served by the vicar. In 1635, the church, with all its rights and revenues, was transferred to the

Episcopate of Edinburgh, but this connection only lasted for a short period. The parish itself was finally absorbed in that of Penicuik about the year 1638, when all need for a separate ecclesiastical establishment was at an end. The churchyard, however, continued to be used for long afterwards. A curious entry in the Session Minutes records the fact that, on the 8th August 1682, one John Ballantyne was summoned and rebuked for making a grave at Mount Lothian Chapel, thus defrauding the bellman out of his just and lawful dues. For many hundred years after the gift of the Church lands, Mount Lothian continued in possession of the Restalrig family. I find, for instance, that on May 3d, 1543, at Fast Castle (where his notorious grandson proposed to imprison King James), Robert Logan, lord of the lands and baronies of Restalrig and Mountlodane, with consent of his father and David Wod of Craig, his curator, gave charter to Margaret Ellen, spouse of Robert Logan, his father, for her liferent use of the lands and barony of Mountlodian, with tenants, etc. This charter was confirmed by the Crown on September 27th, 1543. On January 20th, 1579, the lands of Mount Lothian, and the other possessions of Robert Logan, were appraised for debt, and he became eventually bankrupt. In 1596, Andrew Logan of Coatfield, a cadet of the family, purchased the property, and it continued to be owned by his successors until after the year 1668, but the exact date of their alienation I have not discovered. I find from the Session records that a Mr. William Kintore, advocate, was a heritor in virtue of his possession of them in 1698.

This gentleman sold the lands of Mount Lothian and Herbershaw to Sir John Ramsay of Whitehill for 15,500 marks, under right of redemption at a certain date, and on condition that if they were not so redeemed they should become the purchaser's absolute property by a further payment of 2500 marks.

Kintore did not redeem them, and a lawsuit ensued in 1699, the result of which was apparently in favour of Ramsay, for in 1703 there is record of the sale of the lands by him to Patrick Murray, who was thereafter designed of Mount Lothian.

The Murrays retained possession for a considerable period, but the property was finally purchased by the Clerks of Penicuik, and it still remains in that family.

BRUNSTANE CASTLE.

This fine memorial of sixteenth-century architecture, the old seat of the Crichtons, is still in a state of good preservation. It presents the appearance of having been a very large irregular building of great strength, with vaulted rooms, and the walls pierced for defensive purposes. About the beginning of the century it was still surrounded by a deep fosse or ditch, and, situated as it is on the edge of a deep ravine, it must have been a place capable of making very considerable resistance to an enemy. Over the principal doorway is carved a shield with lion rampant, and the letters J. C., the initials of the builder. A scroll to right and left of it contains the date of building, 1568, and certain almost undecipherable letters, which I think must be ANO · DNI. In the Penicuik churchyard, immediately behind the burying-place of the Newhall family, there also exists on the wall the family crest, in excellent preservation. It is, argent, a lion rampant, armed and languéd gules, within a border, engrailed, of the second. The history of the family who occupied the castle and grounds for over two hundred years contains items of varied interest.

In 1373, David of Penicok, for good advice and service rendered to him, granted to his cousin, William of Creichtoune, lord of that Ilk, his whole lands of Burnstoune and Welchtonne, with their pertinents, lying in his lands and lordship of Penicok.

These lands were to be held by the said William of Creichtoune and Thomas of Creichtoune his son, and failing the latter by death, without leaving lawful heirs of his body, by Edward Creichtoune his brother. The *reddendo*, or condition of holding the property, was a red rose, payable to the superior if asked for, on the ground of Brunistoune, at the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. This charter was confirmed by King Robert II. at Scone, on 29th March 1373, in the third year of his reign. Two years later, another charter of confirmation is given by the same king, of a part of the lands of Braidwood, to William of Creichtoune, and from this William of Creichtoune, lord of that Ilk, and from his son Edward, descended the family of Brunstane. In July 1410 a charter passed under the Great Seal, of the lands of Gilberton, to Margaret Creichtoune, spouse of William of Creichtoune. These lands, which lie near Portobello, now also bear the name of Brunstane, and were held in chief of the king, for service of ward and relief. In 1447 Thomas Creichtoune had sasine of the lands of Gilberton. In 1456 George Creichtoune had also sasine. In 1461 John Creichtoune was retoured heir. In 1487 Edward Creichtoune succeeded to the estate of Burnistone and Gilberton. In a charter executed by him of the lands in 1493, he resigns them temporarily into the hands of the superior, John Penycuke of that Ilk, owing to his wife, Agnes Cockburn, having judicially renounced her right of terce. The witnesses to this document, whose names are given below, are all apparently men in the employment of the contracting parties, and consequently former residents in our parish. They were—William Borthwic, Patrick Vaich, Bulfred Haliburton, James Gyll, John Red, William Adamson, William Bernard, John Zougar, Robert Thomsone, John Forestar, John Barthilomew, and James Zoung, notary-public. On 27th April 1507, Edward Creichtoune was succeeded by his

son John in all his lands ; but in December of that year the latter resigned the lands of Gilberton, with mansion and orchards, into the king's hands, who granted them to Patrick Creichtoune of Kinglassy, son of his familiar, Sir Patrick Creichtoune of Cranston-Redell, knight, under reservation of John Creichtoune's liferent and his wife's terce. It would appear that Patrick had advanced money to John, and obtained his lands of Gilberton as security. He had also given the lands of Bruniston in warrandice, for on 1st July 1530 he obtained sasine of the lands of Brunistone, Welchstoune, Braidwood, and Ravenshaugh ; and the deed narrates how he had, knowingly and willingly, by staff and batoun, resigned these lands into the hands of his superior, John Penycuke of that Ilk ; whereupon the said John Penycuke passed personally with witnesses to the principal passage of said lands of Brunistoune, and gave sasine of all the above-mentioned lands to the said John Creichtoune, by delivery to him of the same staff and batoun, and of earth and stone of the ground of said lands, conform to use and wont. On same date John Penycuke of that Ilk, at the instance of an honourable man, John Creichtoune of Brunistoune, passed to the chief passage of the lands, and there the said John Creichtoune, with consent of his spouse, Janet Hamilton, resigned his lands into the hands of the said John Penycuke ; and thereafter the latter gave sasine of them unto an honourable man, Alexander Creichtoune, son and heir-apparent of the said John Creichtoun, but with the reservation of the liferents of Welchstoune and Braidwood, so long as he and his wife lived.

This Alexander Creichtoune was a man of note in his day. He was at first in the service of the Crown, and employed on missions to France. He was also in the service of Cardinal Beaton, but seems to have quarrelled with him ; and he afterwards threw himself into the hands of the English faction,

and was a leading spirit in their councils. Beaton had become particularly odious to those of the Scottish Barons who were engaged to support the schemes of Henry VIII. His subtle statesmanship had frustrated their designs and baffled all the diplomacy of the English Court. Creichtoune was a personal friend of George Wishart the martyr, whom Beaton hated, and it is almost certain that the Castle of Brunstane was one of his frequent places of refuge while he was in hiding from his wily foe. In the month of July 1545 Creichtoune opened communication with Sir Ralph Sadler, King Henry's commissioner, touching the killing of the Cardinal. This met with a willing response, on which Sadler hinted at a reward for the deed, also noting with some emphasis the 'glory to God' that would accrue. This did not quite satisfy Brunistane, and in October of the same year he sent several communications to England with the object of not only obtaining reward but protection. In this, however, he failed, and he finally appears to have determined not to attempt the deed unless under the express sanction of the English Privy Council. Meanwhile Beaton, confident in his position and in his powers, proceeded to greater extremities. Amongst these was the execution of the learned and gentle Wishart. The Cardinal's cup, however, was now full to running over, for on 29th May 1546 he was assassinated in his own castle by Kirkcaldy of Grange, Lesly, Melville, and others. After this time, Creichtoune, along with the Earls of Angus, Cassilis, Lennox, Glencairn, and many others, shamefully deserted the cause of their country and espoused the English interest. It is believed that it was through Creichtoune's influence that Lord Grey, at the head of an army, invaded the eastern marches, burning the towns of Dalkeith and Musselburgh, and laid waste the country nearly to the walls of Edinburgh. He was in consequence of these deeds attainted for high treason, and

his castle of Brunistane burnt to the ground. On his attainder the lands of Brunistane, Braidwood, Welshtoun, and Ravenshaugh were granted by the Crown to James Sym, burgess of Edinburgh. On 22d January 1554 there was a royal precept directed to John Penycuke of that Ilk, commanding him to enter by charter and sasine the above James Sym in the lands; and on 26th January 1554 the laird of Penycuke, as superior of the lands, accordingly granted him charter of these lands, mentioning that they had belonged to the deceased Alexander Creichtoune, who had been convicted of treason. James Sym almost immediately afterwards resigned them in favour of John Creichtoune, son of the late Alexander. John married Margaret Adamson of Craigcrook, and in the year 1568 rebuilt the castle of Brunstane. In November 1597, with consent of his wife and his son James, he entered into a contract for alienating their other estate of Gilberton to Dame Jean Fleming, Lady Thirlestane. Charter of sale followed, and thus passed away from the Creichtounes those lands, which were however destined to preserve a memorial of their former owners in the name 'Brunstane.' The family was soon, however, to lose their still older hereditary estates. James Creichtoune succeeded his father, and he again was succeeded by his son Thomas. The latter sold Brunstane and its pertinents about the year 1609, and emigrated along with his brother Abraham to Ireland, where many decayed Scots families and younger sons of those in better circumstances found a field for a fresh start in life. In the enrolments for shares in the Plantation of Ulster I find that Thomas Creichtoune received 2000 acres; and, on his becoming surety for £400 for his brother Abraham, he also received a similar grant. The only other allusion to this family which has come under my notice is a short extract in the Register of the Great Seal, of date October 18th, 1637, which introduces the name of David Creich-

ton as a residenter in the kingdom of Ireland, and states that he is the heir of Thomas Creichton, eldest lawful son of James Creichton, formerly of Brunston. When sold by the Creichtouns, the properties of Brunston, Welchtoun, and Braidwood were in all likelihood purchased by Mr. John Preston, the owner of Penicuik. They were at least part of his possessions at the time of his death, and I have not come across the name of any intermediate owner.

LOGAN TOWER.

All that now remains of this interesting old hill-fortalice is a portion of one of its towers. It is much to be regretted that some twelve years ago the remains of another tower to the north side were undermined and blasted, and the stones taken to build an addition to the neighbouring farm-steading of Kirkton. Some of the original castle staircase may also, I believe, be now seen forming part of a series of outside steps at the gamekeeper's cottage, some five or six hundred yards farther down the hill. Logan Tower has been frequently described as a hunting seat of the Scottish kings when they resided at Holyrood. This tradition has, so far as I have been able to ascertain, no foundation in fact. In another chapter dealing with its successive owners I have shown that the estate of Loganhouse belonged of old to the St. Clairs of Roslin, and it is an undoubted fact that it was frequently occupied by them. On 3d April 1593, for instance, the Laird of Rosslyn declared to the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, when they had upon one occasion to deal with him, 'that he was nane of the Parochinaris of Leswaid, but ane of the Parochinaris of St. Catherines of the Hopes, in respect that his residence was in Loganhouse Tower.' A short account of its buildings by the late Andrew Kerr, architect, who visited the locality in 1877, a

year before the demolition I have referred to, will give some idea of its appearance at that time. He says that the place has consisted originally of a single tower built in rubble-work of the local stone, and with walls three or four feet thick. The ground floor was all that then remained, and consisted of one vaulted apartment 20 feet long by 17 feet wide, entered by a door to the side. On the north side, he says, an additional tower with an enclosing wall forming part of a courtyard had been erected early in the fifteenth century, probably by William, third Earl of Orkney, as it was of the same character as the addition made by him at Rosslyn Castle. The courtyard wall, at the date of Mr. Kerr's visit, had been entirely removed, probably, I suppose, to make way for the shepherd's house, which now occupies a portion of the site of the old buildings.

HOWLET'S HOUSE.

On the edge of a scaur to the right-hand side of the road, and about halfway up the Loganlea Reservoir, there are still to be seen the remains of an old building called the Howlet's Hall, or House. It is supposed by old residents to have been a dog-house connected with Logan Tower. This is evidently a mistaken tradition. Mr. Kerr, who visited it when exploring the other objects of interest in the valley, was of opinion that it had probably been a chapel with accommodation for a priest, and perhaps used before the old chapel of St. Catherine's, which is now covered by the waters of Glencorse Reservoir; possibly it may have been that St. Catherine's Chapel in Pentland which, about the year 1230, Henry de Brade, Knight, granted to the monks of Holyrood tithes of all his moorland and of his land of Babilaw to keep up and maintain public worship in, as recorded in *Munimenta Sancte Crucis*, p. 45. When first seen by Mr. Kerr, the east gable, with

its window, was quite entire, also the complete circular arched roof of the apartment, and a stone basin built into the wall. Wind and weather have, however, sadly despoiled the old building since that time, and though a portion of the arched roof still exists, the remains of the old chapel, if such it was, are gradually disappearing from sight.

RAVENSNEUK CASTLE.

This old home of the St. Clairs is situated on an eminence on the south bank of the Esk, within the plantation bordering the farm of Ravensneuk. It is fast disappearing from sight, and at its present rate of decay there will soon not be one stone left upon another to mark the spot where formerly it stood. At the present time a portion of the wall a few feet high is still existing upon the north side, and the remains of two gables about 57 feet apart mark the extent of at least one part of the ancient building. It has apparently been a place of considerable strength, with the walls pierced for defensive purposes. Not enough remains, however, to indicate with any certainty the style of its architecture or the probable date of its erection.

Along with the lands of Cairnhill on the opposite side of the river, both Easter and Wester Ravensneuk were until the close of the seventeenth century part of the barony of Roslin. The former mentioned portion was however alienated at a very early period, and there is now no means of ascertaining its extent. The Cairnhill cottages, which once stood on the rising ground to the right after passing the Kersewell road going westwards, would mark one of its boundaries, and it probably extended to Braidwood and Brunstane on the one side, and on the other to the Loan Burn on the north side of the farm of Cornbank, then called Cairnbank.

Before proceeding to speak of the subject of Ravensneuk and

its castle, it may perhaps be as suitable here as elsewhere to give my readers a short account of this other portion of the Roslin barony situated in our parish.

At a very early period it came into the possession of Sir George Crechton of Carnes, Lord High Admiral of Scotland. For some cause or another this gallant gentleman resigned his honours and his lands in the King's hands without the consent of his son and heir, Sir James. The latter rebelled, and took the extreme step of imprisoning his father in Blackness Castle. The King went to the assistance of his admiral, besieged the castle in great force, and finally took it. Sir James had however recovered part of the paternal estates, for on 19th May 1468, William St. Clair, Prince of Orkney, the founder of Roslin Chapel, granted him charter of the Cairnhill lands to be holden in blench for one penny, one of the witnesses to this charter being Sir John Penicuik of that Ilk, Knight. The property finally passed from the possession of the Crechtons to one John Medilmast of Grestar, and was purchased from the latter owner by John Williamson, burgess of Edinburgh. He sold it in July 1585 to Robert Ker, younger, portioner of Duddingston, who in 1598 parted with it to John Creichton, merchant burgess of Edinburgh, for 3100 merks. The next purchaser was William Adamson of Craigcrook, who after holding it for about six months passed it on to Robert Livingstoun, baker, burgess of Edinburgh. After the year 1602 the Cairnhill lands came into possession of one Thomas Galloway of Slipperfield, and continued in his family for many years. They were finally absorbed into the Penicuik estate, probably in the time of the Prestons. While thus early alienating the Cairnhill portion of their property, the St. Clairs continued to hold by Easter and Wester Ravensneuk. The castle was also constantly occupied by members of that powerful family. The Privy Council Records

contain many allusions to them. For instance, I find that on 6th September 1594, Oliver Sinclair of Ravensneuk and others became caution for £10,000 for Sir William Sinclair of Rosling, that he should answer before the King and Council to such things as should be laid to his charge. A fortnight afterwards he himself is bound over by the authorities not to harm John Gibson and others. His relative Sir William becomes his surety upon this occasion for one thousand pounds. In the year 1604 a family quarrel had evidently taken place, for one John Fairlie of Comistoun becomes surety for Sir William Sinclair of Rosling that he will not do bodily harm to Oliver Sinclair of Ravensneuk. Many instances of this kind could be quoted, in which the latter gentleman or his successors, along with the neighbouring lairds, appear either as principal or sureties, all indicating the turbulent character of the gentry in these troublous times. Tradition has it that one of the owners of Ravensneuk was Sir Oliver Sinclair, the favourite of James v. and the general of his army which sustained so severe a defeat by the English at Solway Moss, but there is no satisfactory evidence known to me which can be quoted in proof of this statement. So far as I can ascertain, the castle and lands were owned by the St. Clairs until about the middle of the seventeenth century. They then passed into possession of the owners of the Penicuik barony. The superiority over them had not however been renounced at the time of sale, for they appear in the Roslin charters in the year 1699, while forty-six years before that time mention is made of both Ravensneuk and Cairnhill having been annexed by Dame Jean Ross, Lady Innes, proprietrix of Penicuik. It would only be after the resignation by St. Clair of this superiority into the hands of the Crown that the King would grant charter consolidating the superiority in the person of the new owner, and that this apparent dual interest ceased to be recorded.

It is to be regretted that so little now remains of the old castle. It is not the gradual touch of time that has levelled its walls, else, like its neighbours at Brunstane and Uttershill, it might still have remained in fair preservation, an object of interest and delight to the antiquary. The stones of its frowning battlements have, I fear, been found too useful for the building and repairing of farm dikes in the vicinity,—a levelling process which has destroyed many other mementoes of feudal times. Fine large beech-trees growing within its walls now spread their protecting branches over what remains of the old castle, but it is to be feared that if there be a local historian in the next century, he may seek, but seek in vain, for the ruins of the home of the St. Clairs.

CHAPTER IV.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS.

SOCIAL.

GREAT changes appear to have taken place in the habits and social customs of our predecessors in this parish towards the close of last century. These no doubt in a great measure arose from the introduction of a new class of workpeople into the district, consequent upon the development of the cotton-spinning and paper-making industries; and it is not surprising to learn that the ways of these new-comers were not as the ways of the older inhabitants. The Rev. Thomas M'Courty, minister of the parish, in his *Statistical Account*, of the year 1793, states that within the twenty years preceding that period the greatest alteration was manifest in the condition of the people. He deplores the fact that a murmuring and discontented spirit had arisen amongst them, along with a disposition to censure public measures both in Church and State. Their social customs, he says, were also changed for the worse. He complains, for instance, that in articles of clothing the young people had become most ambitious and expensive, while in the matter of food similar extravagance was observable, more flesh-meat being used in a week than had formerly been consumed in a month. A great increase had taken place in the consumpt of what he describes as 'that expensive and deleterious article called tea,' and the drinking habits of



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the people were now more hurtful. When, in former times, a person desired a neighbour to do a favour for him, it was usual to treat him to a glass of ale, probably brewed at Howgate or Sillerburn; now the custom was to give him a dram, or a succession of drams, of whisky—a potion which he describes as utterly ruinous to health and destructive to morals. The reverend gentleman also gives interesting information as to the prices of certain articles, and the remuneration given for labour. He quotes beef, mutton, lamb, and veal as selling at 3d. to 5d. per lb. Dutch weight; hens, 1s. to 1s. 2d. each; chickens, 8d. per pair; eggs from 3d. to 6d. per dozen; and potatoes from 4d. to 9d. per peck. As to wages, carpenters had 1s. 6d., and masons 1s. 8d. per day; tailors, 8d. with victuals, and slaters, 2s. 6d. per day. Mr. Jackson, whose views socially and politically were much in line with those of the parish minister, writing thirty-six years afterwards, corroborates the reverend gentleman's statement, that the ancient state of the population was better than it was in his time. He says that formerly they were most religious, loyal, industrious, peaceful, content, and happy, with a devout reverence for their superiors and instructors. Although, he says, they by no means enjoyed the same degree of comfort as the generality of the people who surrounded him, there was in those former days a spirit of independence which kept them from want, and from receiving public aid, by causing them to live within their income. The Rev. W. Scott Moncrieff, minister of the parish, writing in 1839, describes the habits of the people as being cleanly, but not in this respect, nor as regards their style of dress and living, anything remarkable. The manufacturing class, he says, were better paid and more comfortably housed than the peasantry. The former he describes as moral and intellectual, and as possessed of a high standard of civilisation. They read much, and took a pride in

the acquisition of knowledge. He complains, however, that political reading and discussion preponderated, accompanied with no little disaffection to the institutions of the country, particularly the rights and privileges of the Established Church. The tenantry he describes as an exceedingly shrewd and industrious class, more moderate in their political sentiments than the artisans and paper-makers. Mr. Scott Moncrieff further indicates that in the preceding thirty years a great improvement had taken place in the social condition of the people, although he fears that this was not accompanied with an increased diffusion of godliness. He deplores the fact that the high-minded devotion which eminently distinguished the population in former times was now rarely to be met with. Those, he says, who can recall those primitive days before the effects of war and manufactures were known in this rural district, lament the decay of religious feeling and the disuse of those services at the family altar, from which spring so many social blessings and civil virtues.

The various allusions in the foregoing statements to the peaceful and virtuous condition of our predecessors, at a time long anterior to that in which the writers lived, encourages research as to their surroundings at the periods referred to; but it is difficult to obtain trustworthy and satisfactory information.

Perhaps Dr. Pennicuik of Newhall, in his description of Tweeddale, published in 1715, gives the best idea of the conditions under which these primitive country folks lived some two hundred years ago. Taken in conjunction with the famous pastoral poem by Allan Ramsay, whose delineations of rustic life and manners were inspired by contact with the people whom he saw around him during his frequent visits to Penicuik House and Newhall, we may indeed form a pretty correct idea of what our predecessors were in those far-back days. The population was small, and the people

were almost all employed in agricultural pursuits. At the period referred to the land of the parish was in the hands of eight proprietors. The two largest estates then, as now, were those of Penicuik and Loganhouse, owned respectively by Sir John Clerk and Mr. Alexander Gibsone of Drydane. Next in extent came the lands of Spittal, the property of Mr. Oswald. The remaining five proprietors were Lord Ross, Mr. Scott of Bavelaw, Mr. William Kintore of Mount Lothian, Mr. Alexander Pennicuik of Newhall, and Sir John Nicolson. Only four of these gentlemen were resident upon their estates, and little was done by any of them in the direction of improving their lands, or attending to the material comforts of their tenants and labourers. The damp smoky farm-houses were built of mud and stone, and the walls of these buildings and their offices would have been unable to support their heavy thatch and divot roofs had they not been supported with clumsy buttresses of boulders and unhewn stone. The food of the farmers and their servants was of the plainest kind, and their labours hard, and often oppressive. Notwithstanding the discomfort of their surroundings, they were a careful and industrious people, and the testimony given by the writers whom I have quoted as to their attendance upon ordinances and the strict observance of their religious duties is correct in every particular. The Church, to be sure, was all-powerful in those times, and exercised a paternal and somewhat severe supervision over the lives and works of the people. The following few examples, culled from the Session Minutes, will show what a different order of things existed in this respect in those days from what now prevails.

The first is dated Sept. 17th, 1654, and is to the effect that—This day the Session ordained that the people stay not in the burgh after afternoon sermon, but repair to their homes in due time, otherwise they would proceed against them according as they

are found guilty, and intimation thereof to be made next Lord's day.

March 15th, 1655.—The Session this day ordains that whoever wants testimonials in the parioch [parish], and those who harbour them, shall be debarred from the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and this to be intimated next day.

January 22d, 1665.—Andrew Robb being called before the Session, compeared and confessed that he carried some loads, but not a burden, on the Sabbath day, therefore the Session, looking upon it as a 'brak' of the Sabbath, ordered him to stand up before the congregation the next Lord's day and confess his fault unto God, and ask God and his people's pardon whom he had offended. This he did on Sabbath the 29th day of January.

May 9th, 1658.—This day the elders appointed certain of their number to visit the town in time of sermon, and inspect the alehouses.

Sept. 19th, 1658.—This day James Lawrence, and Margaret Law his spouse, are delated for spreading hay and mucking the byre upon the Sabbath day, and are ordained to appear next Sabbath, and answer for their misdeeds.

August 2d, 1674.—The beadle and an elder were this day appointed again to visit all the houses in the parish during sermon-time, and see that not more than one remained therein from church.

June 11th, 1676.—Robert Marshall confessed upon his knees this day before the congregation that he had been guilty of the sin of driving sheep upon the Sabbath day, begging that the Lord would forgive him, and promising never to do the like again in time coming.

July 28th, 1679.—Received from Bavelaw [the Laird] the sum of £28, 8s., penalty for his sins, he having before this for a considerable time defied both Presbytery and Session.

August 8th, 1682.—John Ballantyne was summoned before the Session for making a grave at Mount Lothian Chapel, thus defrauding the bellman of his wages for so doing.

These extracts, and the evidence which the Session Minutes themselves afford that the laws of the Church authorities so laid down were not only tolerated but religiously obeyed, make it not at all a matter of surprise that under a discipline so rigorous the very law of habit thus enlisted on the side of well-doing would make of our primitive predecessors a moral and virtuous people. This state of matters continued until nearly the close of the century, but, as already indicated, the increase of population and infusion of new ideas gradually brought about those changes which Mr. M'Courty and the others so much deplored.

It is fitting now to deal with the condition of matters in the parish at times less remote than those of which I have been writing. Mr. Scott Moncrieff's account of it, already quoted, was written over fifty years ago, and as no other equal period of our history as a nation can show such growth and development on all matters relating to the wellbeing and comfort of its people, it was only to be expected that our district would substantially participate, as it has done, in the gains and material advances of the kingdom at large. To begin with, the population has greatly increased. Mr. Scott Moncrieff quotes the number of souls in the village in his time as 687. The Census of 1881 showed that within the bounds of the burgh there were 3005. In the parish at the former period there was a total population of 2255, while in 1881 there were 1130 separate families, 2577 being males, and 2732 females, a total of 5309. This further increase has mainly arisen through the extension of the paper-mills and the development of the mining industry. The agricultural population has if anything diminished, partly owing to the introduction of labour-

saving machinery and the absorption of many small holdings into the larger neighbouring farms. The social surroundings of the people are also much improved. The advantages of a more general and thorough education are being felt, and a large proportion of the dwellings of the artisans and workpeople, both in Kirkhill and Penicuik, are now commodious and comfortable, renting from £5 to £10 per annum. The latter description of house contains three apartments, with outside conveniences in the shape of water-closets and wash-houses.

Wages in the paper-mills run as follows :—Machine-men, 30s. per week ; pulp-men, 25s. ; plumbers, 28s. ; firemen (stokers), 23s. ; rag-women, 8s. to 12s. ; paper-women, 10s. Labourers get from 4d. to 6d. per hour. Joiners are paid 7d., masons 7½d., and slaters 7½d. to 8d. per hour. Colliers and ironstone-workers make about an average of 6s. to 6s. 6d. per day of eight hours. The wages of ploughmen average about £45 per annum, with free house ; while female servants in farm service get from £14 to £20, with board, for a like period.

The merchants in the town all occupy comfortable houses, and present generally an appearance of prosperity, although their success in business has for the last thirty years been much impaired by the extraordinary development of the Co-operative Trading Association, an account of which is given in an earlier chapter. The farmers are almost without exception in occupation of extensive holdings, and are a most industrious and intelligent class. The improvement in their methods of conducting business as compared with former times is marked. Visits to market, which used often to mean a day or two's absence from home, are now overtaken by train, and without any unnecessary delay.

The old type of agriculturist, who used to boast of always having his six and seven tumblers of toddy of an evening, is now



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almost extinct. Such a one, for instance, as Mr. Purdie, who was farmer of Kingside, could hardly be found. This worthy man was a great convivialist, and many stories are told of his adventures when suffering from the effects of a dram or two too many. Upon one occasion on his way home from Edinburgh market, he turned his pony's head in the wrong direction, and landed upon the sea-shore at Queensferry. He was there overheard anathematising his poor beast for its refusal to cross the water, expressing at the same time his surprise at the flooded condition of what he thought was Burdiehouse Burn. Upon another occasion, after attending a late meeting of what used to be known as the Rogue-Money Club, in Mrs. Brackenrig's Inn, and while making his way home over the wooden footbridge which then spanned the Esk, he met with an apparition which he supposed was the devil. Valiantly laying hold of it by the horns, he told on arriving home how, after a violent struggle, he had managed to overthrow old Nicky Ben into the water. The following morning an old white goat was found lying quite dead beneath the bridge. Stories might be multiplied illustrative of the convivial habits of this worthy and others of his contemporaries, such as Samuel Graham of Ravensneuk. Not only, however, in the ranks of the farmers were these drouthy cronies to be found in those days, but amongst all classes of the community. A story is told illustrative of this fact regarding good Mr. Scott Moncrieff's own Session. David Abernethy, the baker, was long confined to his room through illness. His bed-chamber happened to be on the other side of the wall from the room in the grocer's shop where, before the days of Forbes Mackenzie, many of the village worthies met and discussed matters over their glass of toddy. Mr. Scott Moncrieff was visiting the baker one day, and amongst other things asked him if he was not disturbed by the noise in the next

house. 'No, sir,' he replied, 'I canna say that I am, except upon the nichts when your ain Session meets!' This might, of course, be said partly in joke, still it brings out what was an undoubted fact as to the customs of our ecclesiastical village authorities in the good old days of fifty years ago. The annual consumpt of spirits in the parish at that period was 3552 gallons. It must now considerably exceed three times that quantity, but it is impossible to quote accurately, as the Inland Revenue authorities refuse to give information upon the subject. The amount of spirits actually consumed is thus very great, but it must be borne in mind that the respectable people of all classes, though in the larger proportion not total abstainers, now take their refreshments more decorously than of yore, and without offence to their neighbours and fellow-citizens.

The great majority of the adult inhabitants at the present time are connected with one or other of the religious denominations in the parish, and may reasonably bear the character of being on the whole a church-going people.

There are no ecclesiastical rivalries such as were known in former times. Sunday evening services are held successively in the three Presbyterian Churches, Established, Free, and United Presbyterian, and the most friendly intercourse exists between all the clergymen in the parish. An equally satisfactory state of matters is noticeable at the present time amongst those engaged in business in Penicuik. Instead of the rivalry and ill-will so often witnessed in busy centres of trade amongst competing tradesmen, there exists a genuine and neighbourly friendliness, and a remarkable readiness is shown in obliging each other when opportunity offers.

The people of the parish, as a whole, are most intelligent. Public lecturers and others who have occasion to address large gatherings frequently express their delight and satisfaction at the

unusual readiness with which their points are taken up by Penicuik audiences. Much credit must be given to the large employers of labour in our district for the good moral tone which has so long existed amongst the working classes. There can be little doubt that the high personal character of these gentlemen, combined with their discriminating selection of worthy people to serve under them, has done much to keep up the high standard of general excellence of tone which is so observable a feature in our parish.

Fifty years ago there were forty people upon the roll receiving parochial relief, four of these being lunatics. At the present time there are sixty-seven on the roll, and of these eight are lunatics. As the population of to-day is two and a half times as large as it was in 1840, this state of matters compares favourably, although the increased allowances now payable make the annual expenditure appear large in proportion to that of a former period.

POLITICAL.

Penicuik parishioners have always been well to the front in the political movements of the day. So long ago as the end of last century the village was noted as a place of meeting of the Friends of the People, a political organisation which met with the greatest persecution from the Government, and whose principles were considered treasonable. Its distance from Edinburgh made Penicuik a suitable place for their meetings, and an additional reason would no doubt be the fact that their president, Mr. Jackson, was a well-known resident in the village. It required a man of courage and resource in those days to occupy so prominent a position, and Mr. Jackson had apparently been chosen because of his possessing those qualifications in a marked degree. It is told of him that when presiding at a secret meeting of the Society in Edinburgh


upon one occasion he was disagreeably impressed by the eagerness with which one of the delegates recommended extreme measures, and disappointed with the amount of support which he received from those present. Distrusting the man, and believing him to be a spy, Mr. Jackson hurried home through the night, and by candle-light buried all his incriminatory books and papers in the garden attached to his house. His suspicions had been well founded, for in the early morning officers with search-warrants made a thorough, though of course ineffectual, examination of his premises. Shortly after this time the writings of William Cobbett began to exercise a powerful influence upon the minds of Penicuik citizens, and they continued in constant sympathy with the frequent and emphatic demands which were subsequently made for increased electoral privileges.

Not, however, until the year 1830, when the French people struck down a tyrannical Government and vindicated their right to be ruled by those of their own choosing, did political feeling in Penicuik become pronounced. Groups of enthusiasts used then to gather at the hotel, awaiting the arrival of the coach bringing the weekly newspapers, and the description by eye-witnesses of the eager faces of the listeners, as one or other of their number read aloud the latest news from Paris and London, indicated their overwhelming interest in the course of events. Petitions in favour of Reform were sent from the parish, and a political union was formed for the purpose of watching events and arranging public meetings. When the Reform Bill was carried in the Commons and thrown out by the House of Lords, the whole country was stirred into a blaze. In Penicuik a large and enthusiastic indignation meeting was held in the open air in front of the Established Church, a platform was erected, and vigorous speeches delivered from it by local politicians. When, in 1832, victory

finally crowned the efforts of Earl Grey and his coadjutors, a great procession was organised in the village, which is still spoken of with enthusiasm by the few survivors who took part in it. A banquet was also held in the large *salle* at Valleyfield Mills, presided over by Mr. Charles Cowan. Among the speakers upon that occasion were Sir James Gibson-Craig, Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, Mr. Stewart of Alderston, M.P., and other prominent Whigs. Prior to the passing of the Bill Penicuik parish yielded only five qualifications. By the new order of things those who paid a rental of £40 were included, and that immediately raised the voting strength to eighty,—less than one-ninth of what it is in this year of grace 1890.

The struggle for the representation of the county in 1832, between Sir George Clerk and Sir John Dalrymple, and again in 1836 and 1837, when Mr. W. Gibson-Craig was the Baronet's opponent, was very severe, and feeling ran high in Penicuik. The sympathies of the mass of the people were with the Liberal candidates upon each occasion. Frequent meetings were held in the open air, and at the last of these elections the effigies of Sir George Clerk and his ardent supporters, Mr. James M'Lean of Braidwood, and Mr. Jackson of Planetree Shade (son of the President of the Radical Convention), were publicly burnt in the High Street. Among other incidents which occurred at that time, the following will further illustrate how keen were the feelings displayed upon both sides. The polling at a Parliamentary election then lasted for three days. Upon the afternoon of the third day it was discovered that James Scott, tenant of Greybrae, had not voted. A post-chaise was kept at the King's Arms (now the Royal Hotel) by the Conservatives for any case of emergency, and in this vehicle Mr. M'Lean and Mr. Manson, the estate forester, went off to hunt up the missing man. Some

difficulty about a march fence had soured Mr. Scott, and indisposed him to vote for Sir George. The satisfactory assurances given by Mr. Manson that the matter in dispute would be settled in his favour, proved a speedy cure for this indisposition, and in a very few minutes thereafter the trio were speeding away to Edinburgh as fast as two horses could carry them. On passing the cross roads above Pomathorn Station they found that their political opponents in the village had not been inattentive to their movements, for out of the wood sprang Willie Dodds, and other two bold Radicals, who rushed at the carriage, and, with knives drawn, made determined efforts to cut the traces, and prevent the further progress of the party. James Barrie, the coachman, whipped up his horses, however, before they could make good their purposes, and kept up a galloping pace in the direction of the metropolis. His efforts to shake off the attacking party finally proved successful, but not until he reached Maybank did they relinquish their futile efforts to accomplish their daring project. The exertions of Mr. M'Lean and Mr. Manson on behalf of their party proved, after all, of no avail. They landed safely in Edinburgh, but had the mortification of finding that they were a few seconds too late. The poll had just been closed, and the new-found political enthusiasm of the tenant of Greybrae obtained no practical outlet upon that occasion. Though the paper-makers and artisans were for the greater part Liberals, the majority of the farmers were Conservatives, and the latter as well as the former were not slow to give evidence of their sympathies in every possible way. When, on 16th March 1837 the medal given by Sir George Clerk to the Curling Club was won on Hurley Cove pond by Mr. Charles Cowan of Valleyfield, from twelve competitors, Mr. Aitken of Walston urged his fellow-curlers in vehement language to withhold it from him, on the



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ground that these prizes were never meant for 'cursed Whigs.' Long indeed before that time the members of the Club, most of whom were tenants or feuars of Sir George Clerk, had given many indications of their attachment to the side of politics which he supported. In the year 1819 they forwarded a characteristic address to their patron in London, in which they contrasted the difference between the time rationally spent in the innocent rivalry of manual exertion and mathematical nicety which their national pastime afforded, and that spent in poring over imaginary wrongs, and studying the blasphemous and treasonable publications of the disappointed, the tendency of which was to subvert the national spirit of loyalty, patriotism, and prowess.

An almost continuous calm prevailed in the political life of our parish and the county generally from the time of the contest between Mr. W. Gibson-Craig and Sir George Clerk in 1837, until the election following the passing of the Reform Bill in 1867. In 1841 Mr. Ramsay of Barnton was returned unopposed for the shire. In 1845 Sir John Hope of Craighall succeeded him, and at the elections of 1847 and 1852 this gentleman continued member without any contest. In 1853 Lord Dalkeith took his place, and also sat unopposed until 1868. There were all this time, however, ardent politicians in Penicuik whom the Bill of 1832 did not satisfy, and who were in deep sympathy with the demands of the Chartist party for universal suffrage and equal electoral districts. When, therefore, the Reform Bill of 1867 extended the franchise to many who were formerly without the pale, the Liberals of Penicuik parish were not slow to urge the necessity of a trial of strength with their sitting Tory representative. Largely owing to the influence of Mr. Cowan of Beeslack, Sir John Don Wauchope, Mr. Alexander Mitchell of Dalkeith, and others, this suggestion took practical shape, and Sir Alexander Gibson Maitland

was induced to contest Midlothian at the election of 1868. This gentleman addressed a meeting in the Drill Hall, Penicuik, and created a favourable impression. He was proposed in felicitous terms by Mr. Dent of Ravensneuk as a fit and proper person to represent the county. The result of the poll, which showed a majority in favour of Sir Alexander of 241, proved that the feelings of the constituency had been truly gauged by those who promoted his candidature. The polling station was in Edinburgh, and the excitement locally was not so great as upon subsequent elections, but it was believed that a considerable majority of those who travelled in by morning train to the metropolis voted for Lord Dalkeith's opponent. Prior to the election of 1874 Mr. Cowan of Beeslack was urged by the sitting member, who meditated retirement, and other prominent Liberals, to stand as candidate for the representation of Midlothian at the next election, but he could not be prevailed upon to accede to their wishes. Lord William Hay was in consequence selected to fight the battle against Lord Dalkeith. This gentleman thereafter addressed many meetings throughout the county, and at Penicuik, as elsewhere, received an enthusiastic welcome. He was not successful at the election, however, as Lord Dalkeith upon that occasion recovered his lost seat by a majority of 135 votes.

In February 1879 local politicians were startled by the news, contained in a letter written by Mr. Gladstone to Mr. Cowan of Beeslack, chairman of the Midlothian Liberal Association, announcing his intention to become a candidate for the county at next election. This departure had been in a large measure owing to the influence of Lord Rosebery, and the enthusiasm and excitement created throughout the county by the announcement must have been a source of satisfaction to that eminent nobleman. A meeting of the Liberals of the combined parishes of Glencorse



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and Penicuik was held in the Town Hall, and eloquent speeches, expressing satisfaction with Mr. Gladstone's candidature, were delivered by the Rev. John M'Kerrow, Mr. John Brown, and others. A Gladstone Club was formed, and premises in High Street rented. These afterwards were taken over by the Liberal Association, and proved a convenient rendezvous and rallying-place for local politicians. Considerable activity was also manifested by the Conservative Association, and they also secured reading-rooms for the use of their party in the district.

On 24th March 1880 Mr. Gladstone visited Penicuik and addressed a crowded meeting in the U.P. Church, presided over by the venerable Charles Cowan of Logan House. The election took place on 5th April 1880, and late in the evening of that day the telegraph conveyed the news to prominent politicians on both sides that Mr. Gladstone had been victorious, winning the seat by a majority of 211. In the Liberal rooms in High Street a scene of the greatest enthusiasm ensued. Mr. Hugh Munro was the first to arrive from the post-office with a telegram, and cheer after cheer arose from those who had been patiently waiting the result. Mr. John Craster, sen., of the 'Wellington,' thereafter addressed a large crowd which had assembled in the streets, congratulating them in fitting words upon the triumphant return of the great statesman as their member. At the election of 1880 the total voting strength in Penicuik parish was 173, but the next political contest in the county, which took place in 1885, was fought out upon the extended franchise, when over 700 voters had the privilege of exercising the right of voting by ballot for the candidate they favoured. Upon that occasion Mr. Gladstone was opposed by Sir Charles Dalrymple, Bart., of New Hailes. The result was the return of the Premier by the overwhelming majority of 4631, to which Penicuik parish contributed a very large number of votes.

Both Liberal and Conservative Associations continue to exist in the parish, and exercise a careful supervision over the registration of voters, and other matters. The former is presided over by Mr. Archibald Cowe, merchant, and the latter by Mr. Thomas M'Dougal of Dalhousie Castle. The best feeling, however, exists between both parties in the parish, the extreme tension so often visible in other places having been ever conspicuous by its absence. The employers of labour do not interfere with their workpeople in voting according to their conscientious convictions, and no case of harshness has ever stained the political annals of our parish.

EDUCATION.

It is not my intention to dwell at any length upon the subject of present provision for the educational needs of the parish. The admirable *résumé* of the subject given in the published addresses to the ratepayers by Mr. James Birrell of Uttershill, Chairman of the School Board from 1879 up to the present time, leaves indeed little to be told of matters relating to school-administration in recent years. I shall in the following pages deal more with events connected with this subject which occurred in remoter times. It is of course impossible now to tell when our predecessors in this parish first enjoyed the privilege of school-instruction. It is known that seminaries of learning existed so far back as the time of King David 1., but it is not at all probable that in a sparsely populated parish like Penicuik aspirants after knowledge would have any opportunities of satisfying their yearning, unless perhaps the worthy monks who occupied the monastery at Newhall were good enough to come to their aid. It is interesting, however, in these days of compulsory education, to know that if the common people in our parish did not in early times obtain even the rudiments of

learning, the better classes were compelled to attend to this matter. An Act of the Scottish Parliament, passed in 1494, ordained that all Barons and substantial freeholders should send their eldest sons to school, to be instructed in classical literature, under a penalty of twenty pounds Scots. We have here the very principle which, under a more extended and expansive form, was introduced by Mr. Forster and Lord Young in the Education Acts of 1870 and 1872. At the Reformation the first systematic attempt was made to plant schools in country districts, and obtain support for them out of local ecclesiastical revenues. I do not think Penicuik participated in this wise arrangement; at least there are no traces to be found of a regular schoolmaster being then in the parish. It is more than likely that the minister would at that time, and for a considerable period afterwards, act as the secular as well as the spiritual instructor of the youth of the district. I find indeed that the Rev. Gilbert Tailzour of Penicuik did, in the year 1580, excuse himself to the Presbytery for the neglect of his ministerial duty because of the positive need of ekeing out his miserable stipend by school-teaching. The wise but imperfectly carried out arrangements devised by John Knox were supplemented by the Privy Council in the year 1616, in so far that the bishops of dioceses, in conjunction with heritors, were empowered to establish schools in every parish in the country. This arrangement was confirmed by Parliament in 1633, and five years later the General Assembly took up the matter with zeal, and carried out all the necessary arrangements for the equipment of parochial schools and the suitable provision for the 'entertainment of men able for the charge of teaching youth.' It would probably be at this time that the first regular schoolmaster was placed in Penicuik. He was under the control of the minister and session, and their zeal in superintending his work is to some degree indicated in

their minute of 9th April 1654, which contains instructions to John Lowrie, teacher and session-clerk, to cause two of his pupils to say Catechism every Lord's day in presence of the people. A minute of November 1656 contains also the information that the minister was asked by the session if all parents in the parish were sending their children regularly to school. To their credit a good report is given, but the reverend gentleman is instructed to impress upon the people from the pulpit the sacred duty of attending to this matter. The session also looked after the physical comforts as well as the mental advancement of the pupils. A minute of 20th June 1677 records that the roof of the school was leaking and needed 200 threaves of heather to repair it properly. This they demanded and obtained from the heritors and tenants of the parish, each in their due proportion. John Lowrie's successors in the office of parochial schoolmaster were James Morrison, Alexander Strachan, George Brown, James Fairbairn, Alexander Cunningham, James Rankine, James Shaw, and Thomas Muir. The last mentioned was familiarly known as Dominic Muir. He entered upon his duties about the year 1800, and continued to enjoy the somewhat meagre emoluments of office up to the date of his death, which occurred on 20th April 1849. In the latter years of his life, owing to age and infirmities, he had the services of an assistant. The best known of those who acted in this capacity was Mr. William Dawson, a man of exceedingly small stature, an excellent teacher and a much esteemed citizen. Mr. Robert Alexander succeeded Mr. Muir, his appointment being confirmed in June 1849. Mr. Alexander was a kind-hearted man, an excellent scholar, and a successful teacher when he had bright pupils to deal with. The duller spirits, however, did not progress so rapidly under his tuition, although he was never backward in stimulating their efforts by a free application of the tawse.

Mr. Alexander was not a certificated teacher, and as Government inspection in such cases was not compulsory in parochial schools prior to the passing of the Education Act, the only public examination during his tenure of office was that made by the Presbytery. Many old scholars will remember, as the writer does, the regular appearance of good Mr. Lochtie and his co-presbyters at the annual examination, to which there always flocked a number of the parents and friends of the scholars. The late Sir George Clerk frequently occupied the chair, and it was thought no little honour to receive from the great man's hands those prizes of which he was the generous donor. Mr. Alexander died suddenly while teaching a class in the school early in the year 1869, and was succeeded by Mr. Alexander M'Gregor, the present excellent teacher of the Penicuik Public School. In 1870 the first Government inspection took place in it, and in 1872 there passed into law the important Education (Scotland) Act, which altered completely the scholastic arrangements in Penicuik, as elsewhere, so far as the parish schools were concerned.

The heritors, who had so long been the governing body, were set aside, and their place taken by the School Board, a popularly elected body, whose work of school extension and supervision has been very fully set forth in the published addresses of the present chairman. The parish school known to the older inhabitants was conducted in the building now occupied as the Volunteer Armoury. Its previous site is, I believe, unknown, but it must have been very near to the church, for in the year 1770 the heritors agreed, at the request of Sir James Clerk, to give up the schoolmaster's yard to permit of the new parish church being built upon it. In consideration thereof Sir James made a present of a new house and yard to the schoolmaster, the yard being 'that gushet to the north side of the churchyard.' Old residents

remember this portion of ground being laid out as a garden by Dominie Muir. It was ultimately absorbed into the churchyard, although a considerable period passed before the Rev. Mr. Moncrieff could persuade any of his parishioners to inter their deceased relatives in it, owing to a superstitious belief which existed that the first one buried there would be claimed by the devil for his own. The present Penicuik Public School was erected in 1845, its cost being partly defrayed by subscription. Since its acquisition by the School Board in 1873 a considerable sum has been expended upon its enlargement, the portion of it formerly occupied by the teacher being also turned into class-rooms capable of accommodating from ninety to a hundred scholars. The old parish school was sold by the heritors to the late Sir George Clerk, on 15th May 1851, for the sum of £170. His daughter, Miss Clerk, a lady who was ever deeply interested in the welfare of the parishioners, immediately afterwards opened it as an infant school, first under the care of Miss Ewart and Miss Murdoch, and finally of Miss Bell. It was continued under charge of the latter energetic lady in the handsome new premises erected within the Penicuik House policies, until the year 1883, when Miss Bell retired. The school was thereafter transferred to the management of the School Board.

An account of educational work in Penicuik parish would not be complete without some allusion to the other agencies which have been at work during the present century, supplementing the at best imperfect provision by the heritors and presbytery for the education of the young people in the district. As far back as the year 1818 there was an infant school kept in Croft Street by a Mrs. Steel, another in Bridge Street by Mr. Keddie, while in the Square, in the premises now so long occupied by Mr. A. G. Wilson, merchant, Mr. Inglis, Mr. M'Call, Mr. Spalding, and others, carried on adventure schools at different periods with more or less success.

In the year 1839 there were nine schools in the parish. These included the admirably equipped establishment at Valleyfield, begun in 1830 by the Misses Cowan, and carried on until the present time by Messrs. Cowan's firm ; also the school at Kirkhill, kept up by the Misses Brown, and latterly by the Misses M'Dougal of Eskvale, which was finally absorbed in the Kirkhill Public School. A private school also existed for many years in the old Gardeners' Hall, presided over at different periods by Messrs. Thomas Tait, John Borthwick, William Cameron, James Duncan, William Girdwood, and others, while in Bank Street and High Street adventure schools were carried on by Mr. Sommerville, Mr. Mark, and Mrs. Brass.

For a long period prior to the erection of the handsome new school and schoolhouse at Howgate, the U.P. Church congregation there supplied a felt want by providing a comfortable school and efficient teacher for the young people resident in that remote and sparsely populated portion of the parish. Outside the parish school, that which has proved the most important development of educational work was begun shortly after the Disruption by the Free Church, and carried on under a succession of able and energetic teachers, such as Mr. Noble, Mr. Graham, Mr. M'Farlane, Mr. Thorburn, Mr. Sutherland, and Mr. Munro. After the passing of the Education (Scotland) Act this establishment was handed over to the School Board, who greatly extended it, and it still continues, with Mr. Hugh Munro as head-master, to be a popular and admirable institution for the promotion of a sound primary education.

In the pamphlet already referred to, written by Mr. Birrell, giving an account of the Penicuik Public Schools from 1873 to 1885, there will be found an account of Ninemileburn school, which is under the joint management of the Penicuik and West Linton

School Boards, also a notice of the Catholics in the district having started a school for the children of their own persuasion. Since the publication of Mr. Birrell's pamphlet the members of the Episcopalian communion have also erected a large school beside their church, in which the Dowager Lady Clerk and the Misses Clerk of Penicuik House have all along taken a lively interest. Its pupils at present number over 200.

The only other matter worthy of notice connected with education in the parish is the recent action of the School Board, consequent upon the payment by Government of the Probate Grant towards the relief of school fees. At a meeting of the Board held on 6th Sept. 1889, it was unanimously agreed that from and after 1st October the fees in all the Standards be abolished. This important departure henceforth places within reach of all parents the inestimable privilege of a free primary education for their children, and makes it now imperative that none of the rising generation in our parish,

‘However destitute, be left to droop,
By timely culture unsustained.’

SUPPORT OF THE POOR.

In old days there existed nothing in the shape of a compulsory poor-rate in Penicuik parish, the funds from which relief was dispensed being entirely the freewill-offerings of the people, deposited in the church-plate each Lord's day.

This fund was frugally administered by the elders and session, and the consequence was that the money thus collected sometimes afforded a surplus. This, when it accumulated to a sufficient sum, was usually laid out at interest for the benefit of the poor. For example, the session were able, in January 1679, to lend 300 merks to Mr. Oswald of Spittal. Again, on 5th August 1686, there was



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borrowed from them by Sir John Clerk the sum of £285 upon his personal bond, which loan he repaid with interest on 5th January 1692. The Session disbursements also indicate that in old times people of title were not only borrowers from but also recipients of the contents of the poor's box. On July 21st, 1726, an entry shows that there was paid to the Lady Popilhall, who was reduced to poverty, the sum of twenty-four shillings. These payments to this aristocratic pauper, indeed, continued at intervals up to June 4th, 1730. She had evidently been an incomer to the parish, as there is no record showing that any family of that name belonged to it.

By a proclamation of Privy Council of 11th August 1692, the heritors as well as the kirk-sessions in all parishes were directed to meet once in each year, and there to make a list of all the poor in the parish, and to charge the one-half of their maintenance on the heritors and the other half on the householders.

I find no evidence of this arrangement having been carried out in Penicuik until December 27th, 1782, when at a meeting of heritors and session convened for the purpose of taking into consideration the necessitous condition of the laborious poor in the parish, the following resolution was come to: that 300 bolls of grain should be bought for their relief, to be delivered at the rate of half-a-peck per week for each person, and at such a reduced price as should be afterwards fixed upon by the meeting. This of course did not indicate that any regular assessment had been levied, and nine years afterwards the poor, who numbered twenty-one, were still supported by the interest of a sum of money which remained in the hands of the Session, together with the weekly collections and the proceeds from the hire of hearse and mortcloth, in all amounting to twenty-eight pounds annually.

The day of surpluses was now, however, nearly over. A large number of people had left the Church of their fathers, and had

attached themselves to Dissenting congregations. The successive Lairds of Penicuik, and other heritors, who used to remain all the year round at home, were now often absent for long periods. The consequence of this was a decrease in the weekly collections, and the positive need for a regular assessment. On August 5th, 1800, there was accordingly held a meeting of heritors, farmers, manufacturers, feuars, and householders, at which the situation of the poor was taken into consideration, and they were of opinion that for the six months from Whitsunday to Martinmas, an assessment of 12s. upon each £100 of valued rents would require to be levied, and they there and then appointed Thomas Muir, schoolmaster, to be their collector, and receive one half from landlords and the other half from tenants, in terms of law.

This arrangement was continued for forty-five years in the parish. The growth of Dissent, however, here as elsewhere in Scotland, and especially the Disruption in 1843, rendered it almost impossible to continue levying voluntary assessments. A Commission of Inquiry was accordingly appointed by Parliament in the year 1843, for the purpose of investigating the subject of the Poor Law of Scotland.

The result of these inquiries was the passing, on 4th August 1845, of the Act 8 and 9 Victoria, cap. 83, by which the imposition of assessment and the direct regulation of the affairs of the parish were intrusted to Parochial Boards elected from the owners and ratepayers in all parishes. In Penicuik the first meeting of the new authority was held in the Parish Church on Tuesday, 16th September 1845. There were present upon that occasion Richard Mackenzie, W.S., mandatory for William Robertson of Loganhouse; James Manson, mandatory for Sir George Clerk; James Brown, Esk Mills; John Carstairs, Springfield; James Pow, Walltower; Rev. W. Scott Moncrieff; James M'Lean, Braidwood; John Wilson,

Eastfield; and James Brass, Penicuik. Mr. William Dawson, assistant parochial teacher, was appointed inspector at a salary of £15 per annum, and for relief of poor it was ordered that an assessment be raised, one half from owners and the other half from tenants. At a second meeting, held on 16th September, a committee was appointed to assist the inspector in working out lists of ratepayers, and the amount at which they were to be rated.

The gentlemen who were selected for this duty were Messrs. John Cowan (now of Beeslack); H. H. Brown of Newhall; James Brown, Esk Mills; Thomas Stevenson, Mount Lothian; James M'Lean, Braidwood; James Jackson, Penicuik; and John Carstairs, Springfield. Mr. Brown of Newhall was elected chairman, and he generously acted in this capacity for many years, devoting much time and attention to the work.

The Parochial Board continues to administer the affairs of the parish within its jurisdiction with prudence, and with as much regard to economy as possible. The number of paupers on the roll at 1st August 1890 was sixty-seven. The assessment levied for their support and for casual poor was £1078, 13s. 3d., while the medical relief grant, pauper lunatic grant, repayments from other parishes, and miscellaneous items, amounted to £412, 2s.

In the century that has passed it will be seen that the expenditure has risen by leaps and bounds. One hundred years ago the number of paupers was twenty-one, while the annual outlay for their relief was about twenty-seven shillings each. This year the regular recipients of parochial aid are sixty-seven, maintained at an average individual annual cost of about £16, 11s. 2d. each. The aggregate outlay of course includes payment of the salaries of the permanent officials of the Board.

In terms of Statute authorising the erection of a poor-house in any parish, or combination of parishes, containing more than 5000

inhabitants, the parish of Penicuik, along with Peebles, Eddleston, West Linton, and others, erected a joint poor-house in Peebles, which was opened on 1st December 1859. On 1st August 1890 there were three poor people from our parish residing in it, while in the Midlothian District Asylum there were at the same time eight lunatic patients, in a great measure supported out of the funds of the parish. Mr. Charles William Cowan of Loganhouse has for many years acted as chairman of the Board, and he, along with a representative committee selected from owners and rate-payers, continue at this date, assisted by Mr. John Alexander, inspector and collector, to give their time and attention to the administration of the affairs of the poor of Penicuik.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

About the end of last century a general movement took place throughout the country districts of Scotland, amongst the working classes, in the way of creating institutions for their own relief when incapacitated for labour in consequence of sickness or old age. These were originally sanctioned by Act of Parliament, on condition that their regulations were submitted for revisal to the Justices of the Peace for the county in which the society was situated, and received their approbation at Quarter-Sessions. The rules and by-laws of these societies fixed the rate of contribution, funeral allowances, and the weekly aliment in case of age or sickness.

Penicuik was not behind its neighbours in giving attention to these matters. Before the end of the century four such societies were formed; only one of these, however, survived until modern times. It was formed in 1797 by a few lads, chiefly employed in agricultural service, and was called the 'Young Society of Trades-

men in and about Penicuik and others.' The sums which members were to receive when sick were as follows: 3s. per week during the first six weeks, 2s. per week for the succeeding twelve weeks, and 1s. per week as long as the sickness lasted. The sum of £4 was to be paid upon the death of a member, and £2 on that of his wife or widow. A uniform payment of 1s. 4d. per quarter and 5s. as entry-money was the condition of membership. The society held its meetings in the Parish Church until the year 1848. In the seven following years it met in the Parish School, and during the remaining years of its existence as an active organisation in the Gardeners' Hall and Town Hall. Its annual gathering, known as the Whipman's Play, was for long one of the events of the year in our village, and the yearly dinner and reunion of its members became at last so fruitful a source of expenditure as seriously to embarrass the financial position of the society. In the year 1851 some of the more thoughtful members began to entertain serious doubts as to its stability, and the auditors of that year, while certifying to the correctness of the accounts, put on record their belief that the practice of paying the cost of procession, dinner, etc., out of the ordinary funds was illegal and ought not to be persisted in. Finally the affairs of the society were placed in the hands of Mr. James M. Macandrew, C.A., Edinburgh, who drew out an exhaustive report adverse to its solvency but containing valuable suggestions as to its reconstruction upon a sounder basis. These, with some modifications, were finally agreed to, and in September 1854 the new rules received the sanction of the Registrar of Friendly Societies. The membership of the society however gradually began to fall off, and in 1859 only some 350 names remained upon the roll. In 1860 the greater portion of the available capital was invested in the purchase of the site of the old Penicuik farm-house and the erection of

a block of houses and a shop, all now the property of the Co-operative Association. In 1874 any addition to the membership of the society had practically ceased and it was unanimously resolved to wind up its affairs. The property was sold, and on 24th July 1875 the funds were divided, each of the remaining 179 members receiving as his share the sum of £12, 7s. 4d. One hundred and sixty pounds was retained and lodged in the hands of the treasurer, Mr. William Sharp, to satisfy any claims which might thereafter arise. Subsequent payments have further reduced the sum to under one hundred pounds, but that is supposed to be ample to meet all further indebtedness.

Various other similar societies have sprung into existence from time to time in our parish. In 1822 a Gardeners' Society was formed, but it was broken up about the year 1857. In 1869 it was resuscitated as a yearly society, and in 1874, under its old charter, it was finally reorganised as the Thistle Lodge of Free Gardeners. It is now a flourishing concern conducted upon the soundest and most approved principles. Its income for the year 1889 amounted to £269, 2s. 9d. with a surplus accumulated capital of £1233, 13s. 8d., while on 1st January 1890 there were 245 on its roll of membership.

An Ancient Order of Foresters' Society also exists in the village, with a membership as at 31st December 1889 of 445. It is ably conducted, and its funds on 31st December 1888 amounted to £1779, 5s. 9½d., with an income for the year of £382, 9s. 5½d.

Up to June 1889 another society now called the Ancient Order of Shepherds existed as a kind of affiliated or subordinate society to the Foresters. At that time however it seceded and has become an independent order, registered pursuant to the Friendly Societies Acts 1875 and 1876.

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Several other benefit societies are at present carried on by workers at Valleyfield and Esk Mills. They make an annual division of unexpended capital, but otherwise are conducted upon similar principles to those already mentioned.

Various useful and interesting societies of one kind and another exist in Penicuik. First of these may be mentioned the Horticultural Society, formed in 1842, largely owing to the suggestion and active assistance of the late Mrs. Alexander Philip Thompson. It has ever continued a successful and popular village institution. Its biennial exhibitions have been the means of fostering a love for flowers, as well as directing an intelligent attention to improvements in the method of their culture.

In 1888 the society became amalgamated with the Midlothian Rose and Pansy Show, and exhibitions of flowers, plants, and vegetables now take place in July and October of each year.

Two smaller kindred societies have recently been formed, one for Kirkhill district, and another for the southern portion of the parish. The former holds its exhibitions in Kirkhill School, and the latter in the Wellington Farm School.

There is also a prosperous Ornithological Society in Penicuik, which holds an annual competition in the Volunteer Drill Hall. It has a large membership, and is developing a taste for the rearing of high-class poultry in the parish.

An Instrumental Band was instituted on 18th May 1888. This, however, was not the beginning of the movement. A village band, which dated its formation so far back as 1840, was carried on with great spirit for many years. It finally broke up, but shortly after the beginning of the Volunteer movement in Penicuik, the officers asked its late leader, Thomas Nivison, so long precentor in Howgate, to invite his former musicians to form a

Volunteer Band. This he was successful in doing, and for many years they were identified with all the public appearances of E and F Companies. The bagpipes were, however, ultimately adopted to play the martial music of the Volunteers, and the band was again broken up. A public subscription was some time after started to purchase the instruments, and the present Association was formed. The present Band is now under the control of a Committee of seven gentlemen, three chosen from the Burgh Commissioners, and four from the outside public.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.

This excellent Society was instituted on 24th December 1838.

The original office-bearers were John Watson, president ; John Lawson, vice-president ; Adam Cranston, secretary ; Robert Veitch, treasurer ; Thomas Scott, George Nisbet, William Scott, Thomas Muir, Andrew Warden, Peter Meggat, James M'Kean, acting members of committee.

The first efforts of these gentlemen were directed towards obtaining the influence of the three local clergymen, Messrs. Scott Moncrieff, Girdwood, and Duncan, towards promoting the cause of temperance in their respective congregations. The work was thereafter taken up with great enthusiasm by its promoters, and ere a year had passed a hundred names had been added to the roll of membership.

The Society has ever continued to do excellent service in our district. It has been helped from time to time by substantial financial contributions to its funds by Mr. John Cowan of Beeslack, and by the active influence and careful supervision of Mr. John Brown of Southend Villa, who was elected its president on 21st October 1862.



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Various other temperance agencies, such as the Good Templars, and the Eskdale Tent of the Independent Order of Rechabites, exist in Penicuik, while Bands of Hope have been formed in connection with the Rev. John M'Kerrow's congregation, and at the Fieldsend Mission Station, under the charge of the Rev. S. R. Crockett, of the Free Church. The development of the latter organisations, created for the purpose of bringing the young people of the district into early association with the principles of temperance, will no doubt largely tend to swell the ranks of those whose philanthropic labours in connection with the original society have been so energetic and persistent.

PENICUIK VOLUNTEERS.

Since the beginning of the present century, the inhabitants of Penicuik, owing to the proximity of Glencorse garrison, have been very familiar with the sight and sound of arms. Even before that time, however, many parishioners had loyally responded to the call for enrolment in the Midlothian contingent of the Scottish Volunteer Militia, their hearts being stirred up to give willing service in the defence of their native land against threatened French invasion. After the renewal of hostilities between the two countries in 1803 this corps was embodied, and continued so till the 3d of April 1815.

The next great volunteer military movement which sprang up in the country, and in which Penicuik shared, was in the year 1859. Its occasion was the return of the French Emperor from his victorious Italian campaign, and the general alarm which prevailed lest his next efforts should be directed against Great Britain. These fears were probably groundless, but they

brought forth evidence of the loyalty and bravery of the British people. Within a few weeks 200,000 men were under drill, of whom 40,000 were reported able to take their place in line of battle.

Two Companies were formed in Penicuik, with a third small sub-division in Roslin, all under the command of Captain Sir James Clerk, Bart. No. 1 Company was in charge of the Commandant, with Lieut. E. S. M'Dougal and Ensign Tait as sub-alterns. No. 2 had for senior officer Captain Cowan of Beeslack, Lieut. Charles J. Wahab, and Ensign George Cowan, while the Roslin Company had two commissioned officers in the persons of Hezekiah J. Merricks and William Merricks. No. 1 Company was largely composed of farmers, village merchants, and tradesmen, many of whom were constitutionally unfit for hard service, but who yet, on 7th August 1860, went through the fatigues of that famous Queen's Review day in Edinburgh with a spirit and determination not surpassed by any of their younger and more agile brothers in arms.

After the transference of the school carried on under the active patronage of the late Miss Clerk to new and more commodious premises, the Volunteers secured the old school-room as an armoury for the store of their weapons. In May 1872 they also erected a large drill-hall at the foot of Kirkhill Road, in which their annual presentation of prizes has since taken place. It also provides accommodation for the ordinary purposes of drill when the weather is unpropitious for open-air exercise. The shooting range at Blackburn is one of the finest in the kingdom, up to 600 yards distance. Its sheltered position has not, however, been helpful to local marksmen when competing at wind-swept ranges. For a number of years Penicuik has been the

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headquarters of the 6th Volunteer Brigade Royal Scots, formerly known as the Midlothian Administrative Battalion Rifle Volunteers. The Penicuik E and F Companies, which form part of the brigade, are at present under the command of Captain Robert G. Craster, who succeeded to that position on the retirement of Major A. M'Gregor.

CHAPTER V.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

ESTATE OF THE KIRK OF PENICUIK.

GEORGE CHALMERS, in his well-known *Caledonia*, records as a fact that the parish church of Penicuik during the eighteenth century bore the name of St. Kentigern. This statement has been repeated by other writers, but the probability is, that they may have taken their information from Chalmers himself and not from original documents. Had they, and he from whom they quote, been more particular in their search, they would not have found, either in parish or presbytery records, any evidence that for hundreds of years past the church ever bore this name. It is not impossible, however, that at a very early period some primitive religious building may have been dedicated to that worthy Culdee preacher, under his more endearing title of St. Mungo. The spring of water in the manse garden is known to this day as St. Mungo's Well; and as the names of places are little liable to change, this fact shows it to be probable that he visited this neighbourhood, and that his loving disciples may have connected his name also with the little building erected by them for public worship.

If a church did exist in Penicuik in these early times, it is not at all likely that there would be a permanent or resident

clergyman. It was not, indeed, until a much later period that parishes were laid out and ecclesiastical duties statedly performed throughout Scotland. The first notice that I have been able to find of the existence of a church establishment in Penicuik, shows that in the twelfth century it was an independent rectory, rated at 20 merks, the advowson belonging to the lord of the manor. At this time, the suppression of the missionary system and primitive worship of the Culdees had been completed, and the ecclesiastical system of the Scottish Church assimilated to that of England, which again was closely formed after the model of Rome.

Prior to the Reformation the Penicuik Rectory appears to have been a living of some value. This great event, however, shook the whole fabric of the Scottish Church, and introduced great changes in its organisation and in the stipends of its clergy. Not a few of the nobles seized upon its lands and revenues in the vicinity of their respective castles. Many of the Romish bishops and abbots also, when they began to see that their possessions were likely to go out of their hands, granted, with the sanction of the Pope, perpetual leases of them to their relatives or powerful friends. The rector of Penicuik at this period was a Mr. William Pennycuke, a far-seeing worldly ecclesiastic, who would not let such an opportunity as this pass by. I find that, on 7th August 1565, he granted charter of the kirk lands of Pennycook and Ravensneuk to his relative, William Pennycook, son of John Pennycook of that Ilk. Eleven years afterwards, William Pennycook disposed of these kirk lands to his brother, Gilbert, who in the year 1590 parted with them to Robert Yuill, residenter in Pennycook. The location of these lands is not known, but undoubtedly at some subsequent period they again came into the possession of the Lairds of Penicuik. The ultimate general settle-

ment, by which two-thirds of the ecclesiastical revenues were continued to the Popish clergy, or 'auld possessors,' as they were called, and the remaining third conferred upon the Crown, with the understanding that out of it the Protestant ministers should receive a suitable maintenance, proved highly unsatisfactory. Even the thirds were not, in many instances, devoted to the purposes intended, and it required repeated Acts of Parliament to enforce what had been granted. Even so late as the year 1602, the Protestant clergymen complained to the King, 'that by importune suiting a great part of their thirds were disposed in pension, to the great hinderment of the present provision of ministers.' An arrangement of this kind appears to have existed in Penicuik parish. The rector, as we have seen, had already disposed of the temporalities of the benefice, and, not content with that, had also laid his covetous hand upon the thirds from which his Protestant successor was to be supported. In the *Book of the Universal Kirk of Scotland* there has been preserved the following extract: '13th Oct. 1583.—The members of the chapter of Halirudhus [Holyrood] are charged by letters of horning not to subscribe the pension made to the parson of Penycuke, his wife and son for their lyfetemes, aganist the act which prevents the disposal of all pensions, factories, and whatsoever dispositions of the benefice or any part thereof, without the consent of the General Assembly; and that the disponers thereof shall incur the penaltie containit in the act of date 12th July 1580, and for the particular observation thereof, Mr. Andrew Blackhall, in name of the chapter of Halirudhus, is charged not to subscribe the gift of pension given to the parson of Penycuke by the said Abbot, under the pain containit in the said act.' By the kindness of Dr. Dickson I was permitted to examine, in the Register House, the manuscript account of the Collector-General in the year 1580, of the thirds

of benefices, and I find that the Penicuik Rectory showed at that period the sum of £30, 14s. 6d. ; but as this was in Scots money, the value of it in the coin of to-day would only be £7, 13s. 6d. On this meagre allowance, therefore, the first Protestant clergyman in our parish would require, for a time at least, to support himself and his household. Of course the relative purchasing value of that sum has to be considered. A very little money went a long way in those times, and he might be passing rich on what would bulk very small to us in these modern days, when it seems necessary to procure for ourselves in greater plenty the conveniences and luxuries of life. Although after this time the income of the parish minister appears gradually to have improved, it continued up to a very recent date to be an exceedingly poor one. In the year 1648 a very interesting statement regarding the poverty of the living and the means taken to amend it, is contained in a Minute of Presbytery, which I give verbatim. It is as follows :—‘ The old Kirk of Penycuke is a laik patronage, now at the presentation of the Countess of Eglintowne. The parishin thus constitutet is exceeding spacious and vast, being six miles long, four miles broad, and about fourteen miles in circuit. The church incommodiouslie situat, being the eistmost house of all the said paroch. In the winter a part of the people are withholden from it by high and inaccessible mountaines ; another part by manie waters, whereof two are oft impassable either to foot or horse. Communicants betwixt 300 and 400. The present provision, 720 merks. All means were assayed to better it upon the 21st day of July 1647. An decreat of augmentation wes obtainet, which addet to ye former stipend 230 merks, which in the whole made up 950 merks. Afterwards, sentence of localitie was pronounced to the contentment of all parties, and decreat of localitie extracted ; the quilk decreat was recalled by moyen of Sir John

Gibson, after he had taken on his proportionall share of the said augmentation, and obtained a long prorogation of his takes, though the parishin be so vast, puting an minister to extraordinary great paines in visiting families and sick persons. Yet the church has no grass at all, either naig or cow's, quilk is an great discouragement to the minister, and impediment to the work of God there.'

The minute further states that the Kirk of Penicuik, as it is now constituted, is composed of three Kirks—Penicuik, St. Katherine of the Hoppes, and St. Marie's Kirk in Mount Lothian. The two last mentioned were kirks of Holyrood House. According to the best authorities, Mount Lothian, which previously existed as a separate parish, was annexed to Penicuik in the year 1635. An account of the church, which originally stood in a field to the east of the farm-house occupied by Mr. Grainger, will be found in another chapter.

The Chapel of St. Catherine's, according to trustworthy authorities, belonged, previous to the Reformation, to the abbey of Holyrood, and was afterwards annexed to the bishopric of Edinburgh. This arrangement was also set aside in 1635, when the parish was added to that of Penicuik. According to Father Hay, in his memorials of the Roslin family, the chapel was built by Sir William St. Clair in the fourteenth century, in gratitude for the saint's supposed interference in his favour at the famous hunt on the Pentland Hills, when he staked his head on the speed of his two dogs, Help and Hold. I fear, however, that this interesting statement regarding its foundation cannot, for want of more satisfactory evidence, be accepted as fact. The ruins of the chapel and burying-ground are now covered by the waters of Glencorse reservoir, and are seldom visible to the searching gaze of the student of antiquities. From memoranda made in 1828,

by the late Andrew Kerr, architect, it appears that the chapel was about 40 feet long and 20 feet wide. The walls were built of the local stone in rubble-work, and the area of the burying-ground extended to fully a quarter of an acre. Two centuries and a half must now have elapsed since any worshippers trod the aisles of this ancient and sequestered pile, or since their voices blended in the stated services of praise and prayer, and about 150 years have passed since any of the parishioners were laid to rest in the little graveyard surrounding it.

The Minute of Presbytery, previously quoted, points out the insufficiency of the stipend paid to the minister of Penicuik at that time, also the steps taken to amend that state of matters. The fact that the income from all sources only reached the sum of £40, 10s., showed that their action in this direction was not unreasonable. It is satisfactory to find that twenty-eight years afterwards it had increased to £54, 12s. 9d. The heritors of those days, however, were apparently not consumed by their zeal for ordinances, nor by their desire to attend to the material comfort of their clergyman; for at a special meeting of Presbytery, called by warrant of the bishop of the diocese, to consider the church amenities of Penicuik, it was reported that both church and manse, as well as the office-houses, were in a most ruinous condition. As a result of this convocation of the brethren, orders were at once given that this disgraceful state of matters was to be remedied; and accordingly, George Bell, mason in Penicuik, James Anderson, wright, Penicuik, David Tait, wright at Mosshouses, and Edward Thomson, thatcher in Penicuik, were deeply sworn that they should, according to the best of their knowledge, disclose what was needful to be repaired, and what money the repairs would require.

In the year 1743 a very interesting memorandum, relating to

the allocation of church seats, was prepared by Sir John Clerk and sent to the Kirk-session. It gives some valuable information as to the old church buildings. In this document he says that the property of the church of Penicuik, as of all others both in Scotland and England, belongs to patron and heritor of parish, and every one has a right to claim share of the area according to the extent of their several interests in the parish. He tells how, at considerable expense to himself, he had in the year 1733 built an aisle in the church, which had proved too small for the worshippers. This is not surprising when we consider that the whole length of the church at that time, according to his own measurement, was only 64 feet in length within the walls and 16 feet in breadth. Sir John claims two-thirds of this as his own share, and proceeds to object to Mr. Forbes of Newhall and his successor, Mr. Fisher, taking up too much room. In further advocacy of his rights he tells them that the whole steeple was built by him at considerable charge, and it was from the church only he could have access to it; besides this, the bell was itself a present from his grand-uncle made to the church of Penicuik, and duly recorded in the Session minutes. I have not seen the minute alluding to this fact, but the date upon the bell is 1680, and it bears the inscription that it was gifted in that year. Sir John in his letter goes on to relate that the under part of the steeple had hitherto served as a prison for rogues and thieves, until they should be otherwise disposed of by the civil magistrate. He further directs James Fairbairn, the session-clerk, to put the document amongst the records of the Session *in futuram rei memoriam*. These statements, of course, all relate to the old church, now used as the burying-places of the Penicuik and Newhall families. It is difficult for us of to-day to realise that a church so small could serve a parish so large. The fact, how-

ever, that its whole population in 1755 only numbered 890 souls will be sufficient explanation of the apparent anomaly. From that date, however, the number of parishioners steadily increased ; indeed, within the next forty years they were exactly doubled. The old church finally proved too small, and on Wednesday, the 15th August 1770, the foundation of the present kirk of Penicuik was laid in the schoolmaster's yard, and the building fully completed in the following year. At a heritors' meeting, held on November 30, 1770, it was resolved, that in view of the fact that the area of the old kirk would now be vacant, 16 feet of it at the east end be given to Sir James Clerk, as an addition to his burying-ground, and 16 feet at the west end to Mr. Hay of Newhall for a similar purpose. Not a few, therefore, of those who worshipped in it, and who, like modern church-goers, may, in the warm summer time, have succumbed to the drowsy god while listening to the firstly, secondly, and thirdly of the preacher, now sleep their long sleep within its walls. The old grey building still exists in excellent preservation. Many a generation has looked upon its divided walls and its Romanesque tower, and strangers have come and gone and wondered what its history has been, and generations yet to come will gaze on it while they walk amidst the moss-grown stones which surround it in God's acre, and realise with Schiller—

“That Time consecrates :
And what is grey with age becomes religious.”

Although a more commodious building was now provided for the worshippers, the old manse, with its thatched roof and its tumble-down walls, was still considered good enough accommodation for Mr. M'Court, the venerable incumbent. Shortly after his death, however, a better spirit seems to have come over the heritors, and

in the year 1805 they set about remedying this state of matters, and finally accepted the estimate of Andrew Ritchie, in Peebles, to build a new manse for the sum of £655, 10s. This substantial edifice still remains, and with recent alterations and improvements continues to be a very comfortable and commodious home for the Rev. Robert Thomson, its present occupant. After the close of the Napoleonic wars, the development of the paper manufacturing industry caused a rapid increase in the population of Penicuik parish, and, had it not been for the number of Dissenters attending the United Presbyterian Churches at Howgate and Bridgend, the accommodation in the new parish church would have been quite insufficient. Even as matters stood, it became absolutely necessary in the year 1837 to face enlargement ; accordingly, an addition was made to provide for 300 sittings, at a cost of £600. £400 of this money was raised by subscription, and the remaining £200 borrowed and ultimately paid up from the proceeds of pew-rents.

On the 18th May 1843, there occurred the ever memorable Disruption of the Church of Scotland, and in Penicuik, as elsewhere, many of the most zealous and high-toned Christian people left for conscience sake the Church of their fathers, and formed themselves into a congregation of the Free Protestant Church of Scotland. For many years after this event, the accommodation in the various churches proved sufficient for the growing requirements of the district, but about the year 1876, the Shotts Iron Company having opened pits in the immediate neighbourhood for the output of iron ore, a rapid increase of population took place in the parish of Penicuik. As a result of this, a further enlargement was made of the Established Church in the year 1880, and it was very much owing to the activity and zeal of the Rev. W. M. Imrie that at the same time much was done to add to the amenities of the building. The church as it now stands is described in the

Ordinance Gazetteer as 'a plain edifice, with a tetrastyle Doric portico, a clock, and a stone cross, and sufficiently commodious for the worshippers attending it.' About the end of last century the cross narrowly escaped destruction, as many of the over-zealous parishioners took violent objection to it, owing to its imagined Roman Catholic significance. The clock was erected from the proceeds of a subscription initiated by Mr. John Cowan of Beeslack and others, in the year 1840. It was handed over to the custody of the Session on 1st November 1844. I have before me now the names of those who, at the cost of £63, 5s. 2d., provided this useful village time-keeper. Strange to say, with few exceptions, the survivors of those who contributed, and the descendants of the others still amongst us, are nearly all now members of Dissenting congregations. The only other matter worthy of chronicle in connection with the Established Church buildings is the introduction of the organ. This took place in the year 1887, during the short incumbency of the Rev. Peter Dow. The instrument itself cost £250, and the fitting up £111, 12s. 1d. A large proportion of this amount was raised by members of the congregation, and the remainder by generous friends outside. The church living is now a valuable one, very much owing to the recent feuing of the glebe lands at high rates. It is augmented by a grant from the Exchequer given in aid of small livings. The minister also receives an allowance in lieu of the grass sacrificed by the glebe feus. The total stipend exceeds £300 per annum, with the addition of the manse. The number of communicants at present on the roll is about 1100. Nearly all of them reside within a reasonable distance from the church. Very different this from the condition of things in the early part of the century, when over twenty heads of families were members who lived on the other side of the Pentland Hills.

I cannot close this chapter on the estate of the Parish Kirk without an allusion to the Churchyard. Up to comparatively recent times the area of it was much smaller than at present. Within living memory the boundary wall, built in 1677, ran quite near the old church, while a hedge skirted the present road to Kirkhill. The entrance to the churchyard was by a road past the east side of the church, now covered by the session-house. Two enlargements of it have taken place within the time indicated, but the rapid increase of population, combined with a desire to have popular control of the ground, resulted in the laying out by the Parochial Board of the Penicuik Cemetery, which was declared a part of the burying-ground of the parish of Penicuik by Sheriff Rutherford on 8th May 1884. The cost of its formation was £1106, 5s. 7d., and the sexton's house £255, 15s. The old churchyard was, of course, under the complete control of the heritors, and, on leaving the parish, survivors of families who had relations buried in it had no further claim upon the ground. In the new cemetery opportunity is given to all to purchase the inalienable right of sepulture, and this has already been taken advantage of to a considerable extent. It must be conceded, however, that few if any cases of harshness in dealing with the allocation of lairs by either heritors or Session have ever been known in Penicuik. The spirit displayed by the Kirk-session in the year 1655 seems to have passed down to their successors in authority ever since. A minute of July 29th of that year records that the Session, 'considering that the ground in the churchyard may be broken for graves to the prejudice of old inhabitants of the parish who have their friends lying together therein, do therefore ordain that no ground be broken by any without it be sighted by two of the most aged of the elders or inhabitants of the parish, that contention may be avoided which may arise

therefrom.' In the churchyard there stands to this day the old hearse-house, built in the year 1800. The ancient vehicle which it once contained was made in the year 1761.

The old watch-house in the churchyard will also be remembered by many of the inhabitants. In the times when body-lifting was so common, to provide subjects for dissection, it was erected at a cost of £20 by a number of the inhabitants. A Watching Committee was formed, and each had the right to watch at night after any of their relatives had been buried. Two guns, with suitable ammunition, were provided, and the watch was usually kept by two persons. There is no record, so far as I know, of any resurrectionists visiting our churchyard to carry out their dismal work. The only tragedy, indeed, which occurred was the shooting of a pig by Henry Dewar, whose excited imagination, when he heard it moving about the tombs, led him to believe that a nocturnal body-snatcher had at last made his appearance. This watching was discontinued about the year 1840. In connection with the matter it may be interesting to my readers to learn that Burke, of infamous memory, lived for a considerable time in Penicuik. He lodged with Lucky Millar in the High Street, and worked as a labourer at the mill-lade which was being cut between Lowmill and Esk Mills.

It will have an interest for many to learn that John Jackson and his wife, the originals of the carrier and his wife in Dr. John Brown's *Rab and his Friends*, are buried in Penicuik churchyard.

A great improvement has of late years taken place in the appearance of the churchyard. Twenty years ago it was covered by a mass of rank grass and nettles, and presented a most neglected appearance, while sheep often grazed amidst the tombs. But now the scene is changed: each one seems to vie with his or her neighbour in keeping their sacred spot in God's acre as trim and neat

as possible, while immortelles, and flowers, and shrubs in many cases adorn the smoothly cropped turf.

PAROCHIAL CLERGYMEN IN PENICUIK.

Great difficulties lie in the way of any parish historian obtaining the names of the pre-Reformation clergymen. In the case of Penicuik, I have only been able to find seven, and these all culled from different sources, and obtained after very considerable research.

The first of them was Walter Edgar, who, along with Hugh de Penicok, lord of the manor, swore fealty to Edward 1. at Berwick in 1296. In consequence of this submission he obtained precept to the Sheriff of Edinburgh for the restoration of his rights and privileges, of which he had apparently been deprived. The next was Ricardus de Suthorpe. He was presented to the rectory by King Edward II. in the year 1319. A long hiatus here occurs; for the next parish clergyman whose name I have found, is that of John Wynton, who was appointed 16th May 1448. He was succeeded by Mr. Alexander Vaus, and he again, on 4th June 1472, by John Quitclaw, clerk of the diocese of St. Andrews. The latter gentleman was presented to the living by Sir John Penycuke, the patron thereof. Long after him came Sir Archibald Robeson, who continued rector up to the year 1556, when Mr. William Penycuke, a relative of the patron, was appointed to the living. This gentleman was the last Roman Catholic clergyman who occupied the position of Rector of Penicuik. He appears to have been a man of means and substance, for on two separate occasions I find that he is accepted as cautioner for large sums, that certain parties would not commune with Earl Bothwell. He continued for seven years after the Reformation in apparently undisturbed possession of his office, and resided in Penicuik until

the close of the sixteenth century. In another chapter will be found an account of how he endeavoured to make arrangements with his ecclesiastical superiors at Holyrood for a pension for himself and family, and the efforts made by the General Assembly to set his plans aside. In the Register of the Privy Council there is a notice of the reverend gentleman's son, which does not reflect very creditably on the family training in the manse. It is a complaint by a certain Captain William Rig, that on a particular Sunday in the year 1608, while he was returning from the preaching in the town of Leith to his own residence in Edinburgh, James Pennycuke, son of the late William Pennycuke, parson of Pennycuke, Alexander Pennycuke, sometime of that ilk, Mr. Henry Sinclair, natural son of the late [blank in original] Sincler of Rosling, and others, armed with swords, daggers, and gauntlets, fiercely assaulted him between Leith and Edinburgh, wounded him on divers parts of his body, and reft from him his purse, cloak, and sword. None of the defenders appeared to answer to the charge except Mr. Henry Sincler, and the rest were denounced as rebels.

Thanks to Mr. Scott's *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ* there is no difficulty in tracing the post-Reformation clergymen in any of the parishes of Scotland. Mr. William Barbour was the first Protestant minister in Penicuik. In addition to his duties here he had Mount Lothian also in charge. He left this parish in 1580, and was appointed to that of Pentland. He subsequently became minister of Newton; but on 8th August 1587, being convicted of riot in the kirk, and slander, two of the brethren were appointed to see his desk removed by authority of Gilbert Hay of Monkton, bailie of the bounds. He in consequence demitted his charge.

Gilbert Tailzeour, his successor in Penicuik, appears to have eked out his uncertain stipend by school-teaching; and on being

accused by the Presbytery of Dalkeith of frequently absenting himself from his own flock, he excused himself on account of his scholastic duties, pleading that he could not otherwise have his sustentation honestly. In the year 1586 he had to stand his trial for drunkenness, and was finally transferred to Bathgate in the year 1588. He was succeeded by Mr. Andrew Forrester, who had also the church of Glencorse in charge. He only remained about a year in Penicuik. The next appointment was made in 1590. The clergyman's name was William Galbraith. His career was a most unfortunate one. He was nine years in our parish, and his ministry could hardly have been of an edifying kind. In the year 1605, after he had left Penicuik, he was convicted before the Lords of Council and Session for perjury, and sentenced to be taken to the market-cross of Edinburgh, and there to stand for the space of an hour with a paper upon his head, containing in great letters the words—'Mansworne, perjured, infamous,' and to be banished from Britain for ever; and should he be found again within the bounds of the kingdom, that he was to be executed to the death without further doom.

This man, whose history was so disgraceful, was succeeded in 1599 by Mr. James French, A.M., a distinguished student. He was one of those who adhered to the protestation of 27th June 1617, on behalf of the liberties of the Kirk. This action was rendered necessary owing to the contest that had arisen between the King and the Church, and which ended in the temporary overthrow of the Presbyterian constitution and discipline. In the year 1616 Episcopal authority was indeed firmly established, although the modes of worship followed in the churches continued nearly the same as formerly. King James VI., however, desired that the Scottish Church should be in all respects the same as that in England, and proclamation was made at the cross of Edinburgh,

commanding people to prepare for the observance of Easter and other days set apart by the English Church, under pain of being denounced as rebels and despisers of his Majesty's authority. Many of the most faithful and pious ministers refused to obey, and the reverend incumbent of our own parish appears to have been in silent sympathy with their attitude. Mr. French died in the year 1629, aged fifty-six, and was succeeded by Mr. John Sinclair, A.M., who up to the time of his graduation was porter or janitor in the University of Edinburgh. After a short ministry of seven years he died at the early age of thirty-four. His successor was Mr. Patrick Sibbald. This gentleman was ordained 25th April 1637. At that time the number of communicants was between 200 and 300, but eleven years afterwards they are quoted in a minute of Presbytery as nearly 400. His labours, therefore, appear to have had a good result in increasing the membership of the congregation. They do not seem, however, to have been very generous in contributing to his comfort, for he complains to the Presbytery that they did not think his Gospel-preaching worth a horse and two cows' grass, and that for three whole years he had received nothing to provide maintenance for his wife and family. Mr. Sibbald died in 1653. He was succeeded by the Rev. Patrick Robertson, A.M., who held the living for only two years, and his place was filled in 1656 by William Dalgarno, A.M. During the incumbency of this gentleman, the persecution of Presbyterians was very severe, and this notwithstanding the fact that when Charles II. was restored to his dominions, the ministers of Scotland, with the majority of their people, were hearty in his interests. In the roll of ministers who in 1663 were conformists to Prelacy, there appear the names of eight ministers in the Dalkeith Presbytery. Six of them were non-conformists, and were accordingly turned out of their respective parishes. Mr. Dalgarno was one of

the majority, and continued in Penicuik until 1663, when he was translated to the parish of Kirkmahoe in Dumfriesshire. It is worth recording that while the minister appeared not in any way to sympathise with his oppressed brethren, one of his elders, John Lowrie at Loganhouse, was fined £360 for the part he took in rendering them assistance. Mr. Dalgarno was succeeded in the year 1664 by Mr. William Hamilton, A.M. It was during Mr. Hamilton's incumbency that the battle of Rullion Green was fought, almost within sight of the manse windows. Few traces can be found of any sympathisers with the cause of the Covenanters in Penicuik parish. Local tradition strongly affirms that several of those flying from the battle were killed by the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of the Coats farm. Crookshank in his *History of the State and Sufferings of the Church of Scotland* indeed affirms that the natives were cruel to the fleeing army of the Covenanters, many of whom they killed. In connection with this matter an interesting entry occurs in the list of disbursements in the Session Minutes. It is there recorded that a few days after the battle John Brown, the bellman, was paid the sum of three shillings and fourpence for digging Westlandmen's graves. It is more than likely, I fear, that these were some of the unfortunates who perished in the flight. In the fugitive roll, published May 5th, 1684, containing the names of those who had themselves been in the risings, or who had been guilty of alleged reset of persons who had been there, there is mention made of William Steel, sometime collier at Newhall, Penicuik, and John Wallace, gardener at Rosehill. These indeed are the only names, so far as I know, that in any way connect our parish with the cause of religious liberty. Mr. Hamilton, the minister, although he was not in apparent sympathy with the Covenanters, nevertheless refused to sign the Test Oath which King Charles tried to force


upon all persons in public trust in the state, the church, or the army, and he was in consequence deprived of his charge. A letter was at this time addressed by the Lords of Privy Council to all patrons, requiring them to fill up within twenty days the vacancies thus created. Sir John Clerk accordingly presented Mr. James Mercer, A.M., to the living, and his induction took place in the month of May 1682. The Penicuik people appear to have resented the treatment of their former minister, for at an election of elders none of those appointed would accept office, and letters of horning were taken out against them, although, on the advice of the Bishop, the execution of these was indefinitely postponed. Matters came to a head a few years afterwards, for on 26th May 1689, when the reverend gentleman attempted to enter the churchyard on his way to church, he was violently interrupted by the rabble and forced back. Realising apparently that discretion was the better part of valour, Mr. Mercer voluntarily demitted his charge immediately afterwards. Great political changes had meanwhile been taking place, and the Revolution which drove the Stuarts from the throne brought rest and peace to the Scottish Church. An Act of Parliament, passed on April 25th, 1690, restored the Presbyterian form of church-government, and by it all those ministers who had been thrust from their charges, or banished for not conforming to prelacy, were forthwith to have free access to their churches, and without any new call thereto were allowed at once to execute the duties of the ministry in their old parishes. The first of the unbroken line of Presbyterian ministers who have occupied the position in Penicuik was a young man named James Farmer, who was ready to be licensed by his presbytery when the vacancy occurred. He was ordained on 12th February 1690, and after a short ministry died in Edinburgh on 25th November 1693 after a two months' illness. His successor,

Mr. William M'George, A.M., is the first clergyman whose name is at all familiar to the parishioners of to-day, for his tombstone in the churchyard has been visited by most of them ; on it are the words, 'Here lies the Rev. William M'George, who, having served his Lord and Master faithfully in the discharge of his duty for the space of fifty years, departed this life 6th March 1745, greatly lamented by all good men.' It is said of him that in his latter years he frequently walked about all the night through, and when remonstrated with by his friends regarding it, he always replied, 'that it was his duty to be awake to watch over his people who were asleep.' Mr. M'George was succeeded by Mr. Ebenezer Brown, who was ordained on 19th November 1746, and died 4th October 1759. Mr. John Goldie, A.M., son of Mr. Goldie, tenant of the Firth, was next minister ; before completing his studies he was a teacher in Heriot's Hospital. His ordination took place 15th July 1760, and after a residence of eleven years in Penicuik he was called to the parish of Temple. He was succeeded by Mr. Thomas M'Courty, formerly minister of Dolphinton, who was inducted 16th January 1772, and died 28th December 1803, in the 85th year of his age and 45th of his ministry. Two appointments of assistant and successor to him were made in the later years of his life. The first on 2d July 1798 was that of Mr. David Ritchie, a distinguished student of St. Andrews. This gentleman demitted on the 2d day of October of the following year on his presentation by the Town Council of Edinburgh to be assistant in St. Andrew's Church. He ultimately became a professor in the University of Edinburgh. Mr. Thomas Colston was afterwards appointed, and his ordination took place on 12th March 1799. This worthy is remembered by not a few of the older inhabitants, and many stories regarding him still linger in the parish. In height he was middle-sized and of spare build.

He constantly chewed tobacco, and had a habit of twinkling his eyes. He was a man of undoubted ability, and when he thoroughly prepared his discourses they were of a high order. Even when quite unprepared, as he frequently was, for his pulpit work, he often in speaking attained to heights of eloquence. On one of these occasions the late Mr. Jackson of Planetree Shade accompanied him into the manse after service and complimented him upon the eloquence of his discourse, remarking, at the same time, how much trouble and research the preparation of it must have caused him. 'Trouble, sir,' Mr. Colston replied, and thumping with his fist the Bible which lay on his study-table. 'There lies the Bible, I haven't opened it for three months;' a rather sad confession, my readers will suppose, for a man whose duty it was to inculcate upon his hearers the duty of the reading as well as listening to the preaching of the Word. Mr. Colston was one of the most conceited of men. On the occasion of his supper parties in the manse his old servant, Ann Hopper, was usually called in to give her toast. It invariably was 'Here's to the star of the Dalkeith presbytery, and that's yersel', Mr. Colston.' The story of the blacking of his face in the house of a prominent citizen is well known. One of the younger members of the household, knowing the minister's susceptibility to flattery, began to praise the beautiful formation of his features, passing at the same time his finger along the minister's brow, cheeks, and nose, while describing the perfect outline of each. As it had been previously dipped in a black adhesive substance the effect of the reverend victim's appearance upon the astonished passers-by, when on his way to the manse, may be more easily imagined than described. It is not surprising to hear that Mr. Colston never forgave this unwise and cruel practical joke. He had an inveterate jealousy of and even dislike to Dissenters, and often used to give pennies to the children on the street to cry

‘Pawky Pate’ to his reverend brother at Bridgend. Mr. William Sharp and others still amongst us assure me that in the days of their youth they have often been the recipients of his benefactions for their share in this performance. On a certain occasion several members of Mr. Comrie’s session went to hear Mr. Colston preach; as they sat together he got his eyes upon them, and immediately introduced into his sermon a rather far-fetched allusion to the Scribes and Pharisees for their particular benefit. Who, he asked, were the Scribes and Pharisees? Seceders, Jewish Seceders, a bad class in every age. For a considerable time before his death, instead of preaching sermons he just gave references, stringing text after text together with considerable readiness. On very stormy days it was his common custom to dismiss the congregation without holding service, repeating to them the exhortation that ‘mercy was better than sacrifice.’ One of his last commands was that on his death he should be buried at the garden gate opening into the churchyard, and that on his tombstone there be engraved the words, ‘Here lies the rare T. C.’

During Mr. Colston’s incumbency what used to be known as tent-preaching was common in the district. At the time of Communion in Penicuik there was no service held in the neighbouring parishes, the clergyman and people all coming to unite in the holy ordinance. A similar assistance was of course rendered to them when the Sacrament of the Supper was observed in their churches. In those times the public-houses were open on Sundays, and drink obtainable, and many of the light-hearted and profane were, sad to relate, too often in the habit of indulging in levity and excess, making it a time for the enjoyment of material rather than spiritual feasting. The late Mr. Torrence frequently mentioned the fact that the custom was stopped, so far as Glencorse was concerned, because of the unseemly conduct resulting, upon one



occasion, from the quantity of whisky sold and consumed within the walls of the church during the hours of divine service.

Mr. Colston died 12th March 1829, and was buried in Penicuik churchyard. He was succeeded by the Rev. William Scott Moncrieff, son of Mr. W. Scott Moncrieff of Fossaway; the date of his ordination was 4th February 1830. I have in my possession the copy of the call which was presented to him, signed by thirty-five heritors, office-bearers, and members. It bears many well-known names, such as James M'Lean of Braidwood, James Manson, John Disher of Cornbank, John Lawson, portioner, John Robertson, Thomas Muir, session-clerk, and Charles Cowan, all now dead and gone. Mr. Scott Moncrieff was a cultured and gentlemanly man, and highly esteemed by all sections of the community. During his incumbency, Dr. Chalmers, who was resident in the district during the summer months of 1829 and 1834, frequently assisted him in the services of the sanctuary. It is said, indeed, that one of that great divine's first pulpit appearances was made in Penicuik, he being a regular visitor at the house of Mr. Alexander Cowan of Valleyfield as far back as the year 1810. Upon the occasion referred to, a worthy citizen named Lachlan Finlayson, a great critic in his way, was so dissatisfied with the sermon that he rose and walked out of church, muttering audibly as he passed the pulpit, 'You've mista'en your trade, my mannie, you've mista'en your trade.' I believe his critic lived to realise how far astray he had been in his diagnosis of the doctor's abilities as a preacher.

Mr. Scott Moncrieff demitted his charge on account of ill-health on 18th October 1853, and died in Edinburgh 18th February 1857. His place was filled by Mr. John M'Alister Thomson, A.M. This much-esteemed clergyman found the sphere uncongenial, and he only remained about two years in the charge. His

successor was Mr. John Home. I do not know the exact date of that gentleman's ordination, but I observe that the first meeting of session at which he was present is of date March 9th, 1856. Mr. Home was gifted with abilities of a high order, and for some years he was very popular with his people; latterly, however, he got into strained relations with his session and other members of the congregation. The result was that he gave up his charge and went to America. A very good story is told of him, illustrating his readiness in repartee. His session, feeling it to be their duty to remonstrate with him as to his general conduct, waited upon him on one occasion, and urged upon him the need of taking another line, asking him at the same time how he could expect his flock to continue orderly when the shepherd was himself so erratic in his behaviour. Mr. Home's opinion of some of these worthy remonstrants was not very high, and this he indicated by immediately replying, 'Nothing wrong with the shepherd, gentlemen. It's his bad dogs that are the cause of all the mischief.'

Mr. W. Malcolm Imrie succeeded Mr. Home as parish minister. He was ordained in May 1864, and continued in full charge for twenty-two years. During his incumbency the value of the living was much increased, partly from participation in Crown grants, but most materially from the feuing of the glebe lands. Mr. Imrie will be remembered for his zeal in obtaining church extension and improvement. In the latter years of his pastorate and of his life his health gave way, and a growing irritability of temperament and unfitness for pulpit work necessitated the appointment of an assistant and successor. Mr. Peter Dow, A.M., B.D., was the choice of the people, and his ordination took place on August 3, 1886. Mr. Dow proved an able and conscientious pastor, who quickly earned the love and respect

of his people. Much was hoped for from his ministry, but all too soon the hand of death struck him down on the very threshold of his career. Few events in our village life have of late years caused so intense a feeling of regret amongst all classes as Mr. Dow's premature decease. The handsome memorial stone erected in the churchyard at a cost exceeding fifty pounds will testify to succeeding generations how precious was his memory in the hearts of his attached people.

In May 1888 Mr. Robert Thomson, M.A., B.D., the present much-esteemed minister, was ordained to the vacant charge. This gentleman had on two previous occasions succeeded Mr. Dow in temporary assistantships, first at Boarhills, then at St. Giles, Edinburgh, and now for the third time, under sadder circumstances, he took his place in Penicuik.

DISSENTING CONGREGATIONS IN PENICUIK PARISH—HOWGATE.

The oldest of these is the United Presbyterian congregation at Howgate. This little hamlet, situated about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the south-east of Penicuik village, was at one time a place of much greater importance than it is now. Prior to the formation of the present main road from Edinburgh to Peebles, a great part of the traffic between the metropolis and the south passed through it. The Carlisle and Dumfries coaches of themselves caused no little stir as their scarlet-coated drivers pulled up daily at the little inn for refreshment for man and beast. This hostelry is mentioned by Lockhart in the fifth chapter of his *Life of Scott*. While on a fishing expedition to West Loch, along with George Abercromby, afterwards Lord Abercromby, William Clerk of Penicuik, and his friend Irving, they spent the night there with Margaret Dods, the landlady. When *St. Ronan's Well* was published, Clerk, meet-

ing Scott in the street, observed, 'That is an odd name you have given the lady of the inn, surely I have heard it somewhere before.' Scott smiled, and as he passed on said, 'Don't you remember Howgate?' Upon the occasion of this visit the genial novelist and his friends were induced by William Clerk to visit Penicuik House. The flattering hospitality and intelligent conversation of Sir John Clerk and his lady produced such an impression on Sir Walter that he was thereafter a frequent and honoured guest.

The church at Howgate originated in the year 1747, when the breach took place between the Burghers and Anti-Burghers. At that time the nearest Secession Church to the good people of that persuasion in our neighbourhood was at West Linton. When the split took place, Mr. Mair, the minister, and the majority of his people adhered to the Burgher Synod. Not a few of the members from this parish favoured the Anti-Burgher views. They accordingly withdrew, and along with others from Dalkeith formed the congregation of Howgate. It continued, however, for long afterwards to be mentioned in the Presbytery Minutes as the congregation of Linton. The first place of meeting was at Halls, but Howgate was finally fixed upon as the place most central to the majority of the people, and a church was built there in the year 1751, with accommodation for 390 sitters. The congregation worshipped in this edifice for over a hundred years, when a new church was built at a cost of £750. It provided sittings for 408 people, and was opened on the 9th of November 1856. The debt incurred in its construction was finally cleared off on 8th February 1865.

Not a few families in Penicuik still continue with praiseworthy zeal to attend the ministrations at Howgate, and help to sustain the high average rate of contributions for church and missionary purposes which so distinguish that congregation. Notwithstanding

ing the faithful service and ability of the present incumbent, the Rev. David Thomas, the membership inclines to decrease. This is in a great measure owing to the grouping of small farms into large holdings, and the consequent depopulation of the district.

The first minister of the congregation was the Rev. Andrew Bunyan, ordained November 26, 1754. He died 22d February 1795, in the seventy-first year of his age and forty-first of his ministry.

Its second minister, the Rev. William M'Ewen, was ordained 31st May 1796, and died 22d February 1827, in the fifty-eighth year of his age and thirty-first of his ministry.

Its third minister, the Rev. David Duncan, from Midcalder, was ordained 3d January 1828, and died 26th June 1866, in the sixty-second year of his age and thirty-ninth of his ministry. Mr. Duncan was the first of the Howgate ministers known to the majority of the present generation. He was an able and public-spirited man, and always to the front in any movement for the social and intellectual improvement of the neighbourhood. A volume of his sermons, with a memoir, was published after his death, the perusal of which will afford evidence of his worth as a man and his great power as a preacher. He was author of several works: *The Pattern of Prayer*, *Dissertations on the Evidences of Christianity*, *The Law of Moses*, etc.

The present highly-respected minister is the Rev. David Thomas, M.A. He was ordained 19th February 1867, and continues to labour with much acceptance to an attached congregation.

A pleasing feature in connection with Howgate Church is the number of young men who have from time to time gone from it to enter upon study for the ministry. I have before me a list of names approaching twenty, many of whom attained to prominence in the church. Not the least eminent are some of those who, in our own time, have passed through their college career with

distinction, and are now ministers of important congregations; of these I need only mention the names of the Rev. Robert Laurie of James's Church, Dundee, Rev. William Duncan of Maryhill, Glasgow, and the Rev. James W. Dalglish, Newmilns.

DISSENTING CONGREGATIONS—BRIDGEND, NOW PENICUIK.

This congregation originated in the year 1782 with members of the Burgher Church of West Linton resident in and around Penicuik. In the interesting account of that church by its present minister, the Rev. James Kinloch, it is stated that at the period indicated there were in connection with it upwards of 100 examinable persons from Penicuik district. After much serious consideration these good people finally resolved to have a place of meeting for themselves, and thus save the long walk of eight miles every Sabbath-day. Their first services were held in summer-time down on the flat ground beside the present railway station, and in a barn at Eskmills in the winter season. These initial efforts to obtain a site for a church were for some time unsuccessful. In connection with this it is related how a deputation of their number waited upon the proprietor at Penicuik House to ask for sufficient ground on which to erect a place of worship. The Baronet sternly refused, and afterwards, when in conversation with worthy Andrew Tait of Lowrie's Den, an old and trusted servant, he related the circumstance, asking him at the same time what kind of people these Seceders were? 'I am ane o' them mysel', and nearly all your servants that are worth onything are the same,' replied the decent man. The Baronet thereupon sent for the deputation to return and arrange terms with him for a site, but they had already entered into negotiations with Mr. Inglis of Redhall, and finally fixed with him, for the piece of

ground at Bridgend, upon which their church and manse were built. The first minister of the congregation was the Rev. Patrick Comrie, A.M. This worthy man was ordained 1st June 1784, and died on 22d September 1840, in the eighty-ninth year of his age and the fifty-seventh of his ministry. He is buried in Penicuik churchyard, and the inscription on the tombstone erected to his memory by the congregation shows how much respected and beloved he had been by them. Mr. Comrie was a great humorist, and many stories are told of him which indicate his readiness of wit and discernment of character. At an election of elders upon one occasion at Bridgend he was asked his opinion as to the suitability of a certain Mr. Thomas Wilkie for that office. His interrogator at the same time remarked that the gentleman alluded to had a saintly wife and God-fearing family. Mr. Comrie's reply was, 'If his saintly wife and God-fearing family could be made elders I would not wag my tongue against them, but Mr. Wilkie himself is a curly wurly conglomerate of good and evil, every Sunday in the kirk listening to the sermon and singing psalms like a perfect saint, while on the week-days he is at the markets and fairs lying and cheating like the biggest swindler. No, no, he might do well enough for a stoop in the Anti-Burgher kirk, but he will never do as a pillar of beauty as a Burgher elder.' One Sabbath evening Mr. Comrie preached the same sermon at Dalmore that he had given them in his own church in the forenoon. At the close of the meeting one of his people named Saunders, who had attended both diets, remarked to him, 'If I had kent that it was to be cauld kail het again, I wouldna hae been here.' 'Ah! Saunders, Saunders,' answered Mr. Comrie, 'you are wrong again, man. It had never time to get cold.' His kindly assurance to the mother of the tongue-tacked lassie is also very good: 'My good woman,' he said, 'don't distress yourself about

the bairnie's tongue, it will come all right, for experience teaches that it's not within the plan of Providence to tie any woman's tongue.' His quaint conceit comes out in the following story. Having been asked to preach in Bristo Church, Edinburgh, he happened to meet a member of it, an acquaintance of his own, while walking on the Saturday afternoon in the city. The latter expressed aloud the gratification with which he looked forward to hearing him. 'Whist man, whist, speak lower,' said Mr. Comrie in great anxiety, 'I dinna want a crowd.'

He was fond of the fiddle, and always ready to play any one a tune. His good nature in this respect enabled his reverend brother at Glencorse rather unfairly to score against him upon one occasion. They were both at a dinner-party at the Inglises' of Auchendinny House, and a charity ball, which was to be held at Greenlaw Barracks, being under discussion, the Misses Inglis denounced dancing in every shape and form. Mr. Comrie joined very heartily with them in their denunciations, but was put to shame by Mr. Torrence telling them that at a party in his father's manse a few nights before Mr. Comrie played the fiddle most of the night, while the young folks danced.

When age unfitted him for public duty the financial circumstances of the congregation only permitted of a small retiring allowance, and the Session at the same time intimated to him that they would like his successor to get the manse. 'No, no,' replied Mr. Comrie, 'nothing of the kind, quite time enough to skin an old horse after it is dead.' His hearty humour made him indeed a great favourite with all. Even at death the ruling passion was so strong within him that he could not resist the exercise of it. During the last few moments of his life, when his nurse was seeking to place a hot application to his feet, and not seeing the outline of them very readily in the darkness of the

chamber, she asked him where they were. 'At the end of my legs as usual, I suppose,' replied the dying man.

Mr. Comrie's colleague and successor was the Rev. Thomas Girdwood, who was ordained 28th June 1831. He proved a worthy man and faithful pastor, and his memory is still green in the hearts of many who enjoyed the benefit of his ministry. He died on 19th June 1861, in the fifty-seventh year of his age and the thirtieth of his ministry. Like his predecessor, he is buried in Penicuik churchyard, a small granite stone marking his last resting-place.

His son, Rev. William Girdwood, was ordained his successor on 18th February 1862. After a short but faithful ministry he was translated to a congregation in Perth, on 31st January 1865, but soon left it for the mission field in Kaffraria.

Mr. Girdwood was succeeded by the Rev. John M'Kerrow, B.A., son of the late Dr. M'Kerrow of Bridge of Teith, the distinguished historian of the Secession Church. Mr. M'Kerrow was ordained 19th September 1865, and has now laboured faithfully amongst an attached people for twenty-five years. His semi-jubilee was celebrated on 10th November 1890, and handsome gifts were presented to him by the congregation on that occasion. Shortly after Mr. M'Kerrow had entered upon his work at Bridgend the growth of the congregation and the inconvenience of the church to the majority of the members caused them to look about for a new site. This was ultimately fixed, and a new church erected thereon at the north end of the village of Penicuik. This commodious edifice was opened by the Rev. Dr. Cairns in July 1867. A comfortable manse was also erected beside the church, the total cost of both buildings amounting to £2700. The money obtained by the sale of the old church and manse was devoted to partial payment of this sum, and the balance was borrowed. The proceeds of an annual collection were devoted to the liquidation of

this indebtedness, but it was not until the year 1882 that the congregation was finally free of the incubus. This happy result was accomplished through the medium of a most successful bazaar held in the Drill Hall in the summer of that year. All classes of the community and members of every denomination generously aided the congregation in providing work for sale, and these contributions ultimately realised the handsome sum of £700 sterling.

THE FREE CHURCH.

The Free Church congregation in Penicuik was formed in 1843 by those who adhered to the Disruption testimony of the Headship of Christ over His own church, even unto separation from the state. There might be, no doubt, among that number some who had imperfect views of the great principles which were involved in the controversy. It is possible even that others may have acted from selfish and interested motives, but there is reason for satisfaction and pride that there were so many in Penicuik ready to sever ties long and fondly cherished, and leave a Church hallowed with memories of the past, all for conscience sake. The Rev. W. Scott Moncrieff, minister of the parish, sympathised up to the last with the non-intrusion party; indeed many believed that he would cast in his lot with the seceders, but he finally saw it to be his duty to decide otherwise. The names, however, of five of his elders appeared in the protest by the Presbytery of Dalkeith against the subversion of the constitution of the Church of Scotland by the civil power, and these men subsequently gave evidence of their sincerity in this matter by casting in their lot with the Free Church. At the first meeting of Mr. Scott Moncrieff's Session after the Disruption only two elders were present.

These were Mr. John Wilson, farmer of Eastfield (grandfather of the writer), and Mr. Orrock, cashier at Esk Mills. The reverend gentleman sorrowfully referred to the fact that Messrs. Charles Cowan, Robert Mason, Henry R. Madden, M.D., Robert Kilpatrick, and Robert Keary, had gone from them, and to the consequent need, in view of the approaching communion, to have new office-bearers elected. The above-mentioned gentlemen were all subsequently appointed by the Free Presbytery of Dalkeith to constitute the Session of the Free Church in Penicuik. The first meetings of the new congregation, the spiritual oversight of which was thus given them, were held in the Gardeners' Hall, and there they continued until the erection of a permanent place of worship. The circumstances connected with the obtaining a site for their church are pretty fully detailed in the *Annals of the Disruption*, but as many of my readers may not possess a copy of that work, I herewith give a verbatim extract from it:—

‘At Penicuik the ground belonged to Sir George Clerk, who held an important post under Government. He had taken an active part in the ten years’ conflict, but after the Disruption the spirit he displayed was widely different from that of Lord Aberdeen. On being applied to, he not only refused a site, but, when the people had bought for themselves an eligible piece of ground, he interposed, as superior of the Barony, to claim the right of pre-emption, and so effectually shut them out. At a subsequent period, when they had purchased a cottage and proposed to enlarge it into a manse, he again successfully interfered to prevent them adding to the comfort of their pastor. These efforts, however, to put down the obnoxious Free Church were not successful. A respectable old woman, named Helen Wilson, had died, leaving a cottage and a garden, and these were put up to public auction. The purchaser was Charles Cowan, Esq., M.P., who made a present

of the garden and site to the Free Church. The ground was held in lease for Sir George's estate, but as 400 years of the lease had still to run, it was fortunately a good way out of reach. As the little garden, however, was triangular in shape, the church had necessarily to be somewhat similar in form. It was opened in the month of October. The pulpit was placed behind, near the apex of the triangle, and the seating was necessarily disposed in the segments of a circle, the area of the church being somewhat in the form of a fan. The front is about 100 feet in length, and, considering the awkward state of the ground, the effect of the whole is pleasing.'

Subsequently, Sir George Clerk gave ground beside the church for a manse, and a commodious building was erected thereon.

In the year 1862, when the increase of the congregation necessitated the provision of a larger building, Sir George gave further evidence of a more enlightened policy by granting a site on the west side of the Peebles road, whereon a handsome Gothic Church was erected at a cost of £2050, capable of seating comfortably as many as 700 worshippers.

The old church in West Street has since been let by the Deacons' Court as a place for public meetings. It is, indeed, the only available hall with seats, in the village, suitable for lectures and concerts, as well as for municipal and political gatherings. The first minister of the Free Church in Penicuik was the Rev. Andrew Mackenzie. He was ordained 24th August 1843, but after eleven years of active service failing health necessitated his asking the Presbytery for the appointment of a helper and successor. This was granted, and the Rev. Hugh A. Stewart, a son of Major Ludovic Stewart of Pitovack, ultimately proved the choice of the congregation. This much-esteemed clergyman was accordingly ordained to the collegiate charge in the year 1854.

During his residence in Penicuik Mr. Stewart's life and preaching proved a great influence for good in the parish. In the summer of 1886, feeling himself in failing health, he applied to be relieved from the active oversight of the congregation, and in the month of December of the same year the Rev. Samuel Rutherford Crockett was unanimously called by the congregation to be his colleague and successor. The number of communicants on the roll of the church at present exceeds 430. In connection with the congregation there is also a Fellowship Association with a membership of about sixty, and a large Sabbath-school; weekly Prayer-meetings and Bible-classes are conducted by Mr. Crockett, who has also under his immediate charge a successful mission at Fieldsend.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Previous to the year 1860 members of the Episcopal Communion resident in Penicuik had no nearer place of worship than one or other of the churches in Edinburgh.

At the time indicated, however, a chaplain was stationed at Glencorse Barracks, and his services were made available to those in the vicinity; but on the restoration of Rosslyn Chapel in 1862 these were invited to form part of the congregation worshipping there. Beyond occasional meetings in the private chapel fitted up in the upper story of Penicuik House, regular services were not commenced in the village until the year 1878. A congregation was then formed, and the increase in its numbers warranted the erection in 1882 of a neat and substantial church at the west end of the village. The first clergyman placed in charge was the Rev. John Hammond, and upon his removal after a short incumbency his place was filled by the Rev. Charles A.

Elrington, B.A., under whose active ministry the church has greatly prospered.

In 1887 day-schools were started, and already over two hundred scholars are in daily attendance under the supervision of Mr. Elrington, and a sufficient staff of teachers.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Since the development of the mining industry in our neighbourhood, the Roman Catholic communion has very considerably increased in numbers. Fifty years ago there were, according to the report of the parish minister of the time, only eighteen Catholics in the parish. Now a large congregation meets regularly in the chapel which was built in 1883 to accommodate their ever-increasing membership.

Prior to the erection of this place of worship Roman Catholics resident in Penicuik were put to the inconvenience of attending the ministrations of clergymen in Edinburgh or Dalkeith. They have now an organised congregation, a resident priest, and a well-equipped day-school. The mission-station at Rosewell is also in charge of the Penicuik incumbent. Very much owing to the indefatigable energy of the Rev. Joseph M'Anna, who for some years was stationed in this parish, a comfortable church has also been erected at that place.

OTHER RELIGIOUS BODIES.

Since the closing years of last century, when the brothers Robert and James Alexander Haldane preached to admiring and appreciative audiences in the open air in West Street, there have been from time to time earnest and God-fearing men labouring

in season and out of season in Penicuik, outside the churches, who, according to their lights, have striven to teach and preach the Gospel; but not until the present day have these agencies been at all numerous.

In recent years a small congregation of Methodists has been formed, the members of which earnestly and unobtrusively carry on their good work. The Plymouth Brethren are also represented, and though few in numbers are zealous and active in their religious teaching. The most numerous and apparently successful body outside the churches is the Salvation Army. About two years ago a mission was planted in Penicuik and placed in charge of regular officers. Upwards of fifty recruits have joined, many of them being formerly in active connection with the Presbyterian churches. They have barracks in Band Street, and hold meetings almost daily, either outside or in-doors. Their frequent processions on Sabbath-day and week-day are rendered imposing by the carrying aloft of banners and the accompaniment of instrumental music.

CHAPTER VI.

AGRICULTURE AND OTHER INDUSTRIES.

PAST AND PRESENT.

AN agricultural map of Midlothian, published in 1795, represents the fertile lands in Penicuik parish as a narrow strip, extending along the low grounds from their boundary with Glen-corse parish to a point a short distance south of the present village. Westwards from that strip up to the foot of the hills, and continuing up to Carlops, it is shown as moor-like land in a state of semi-cultivation. The same quality of ground continued to the east of the parish as far as Rosebery, and the whole land southwards to the borders of Peeblesshire was covered with heath or in a state of nature.

At this period some efforts had already been made toward its improvement, so we may readily believe that in its original condition our district must have presented a most desolate aspect.

The first indication of any substantial change in its agricultural conditions took place about the middle of last century when Baron Sir John Clerk was owner of the Penicuik barony. This enlightened man was indeed the very first who ever attempted to carry out a system of field enclosure, and that often in direct opposition to the wishes of the tenants. About the year 1728, for instance, the lands of Penicuik town, which would

include much of the site of the present village, as well as the various parks now farmed by Mr. Robert Henderson, Mr. Hay, Mr. Paterson, and others, were in the hands of only three tenants, but divided into twenty-seven different parts, or what is known as run-rig, a kind of mixing up of land only now to be seen in certain parts of Ireland. The Baron desired to remedy this bad condition of farming, but it was with the greatest difficulty that he could get these three men to consent to a regular division and enclosure of their lands. This system was also carried out by him on the farms of Roads and Cuicken by double dikes of turf taken from the ditch on each side from which they were dug, and planted on the top with thorns and oak trees about fifteen yards apart. The Baron likewise erected a substantial dwelling-house upon the farm of Eastfield and Mains of Penicuik two stories high, with slated roofs. These would be an immense improvement upon the farm-houses which then existed in other parts of the parish, for, according to a contemporary account, they were of the plainest and most primitive kind. The farm mains then consisted, as a rule, of a set of low buildings in the form of a square, one side occupied by the farmer and his family, their home being composed of two or three dismal apartments with earthen floors, low ceilings, and small windows. The chimney was commonly erected against the gable-wall, and, while intended to give free passage to the smoke, served more as a means for admitting the outer elements, to the discomfort of the occupants. The other sides of the square were occupied by the labourers' houses, stables, byres, and other farm buildings, all of which were usually built of turf and stone, while the roof was thatched or turfed over. Owing to scarcity of wood these roofs were often supported by stone couples. The old Marfield farm-steading, which was replaced by the present one early in the century, was done in this way ; rows of rough stone

arches springing at equal distances from the side walls between the corresponding gables. One of the old houses at Spittal was at the same period entirely covered with a solid roof of stone. While Sir John Clerk was introducing his improvements upon the two farms mentioned above, his enlightened neighbour, Mr. Forbes of Newhall, was also beginning to shelter his fields in the vicinity of the mansion-house by belts of planting and hedgerows, while also introducing new methods of agriculture upon his estate. In the second volume of the *Transactions* of the Highland Society Dr. Walker writes :— ‘The potato forms one of the most useful and profitable crops that can be raised in pure peat earth. Though this was long known in Ireland, the first trial of the kind in this country, so far as is known, was made in the year 1750, at Newhall in Midlothian. The experiment was made in an enclosure of about four acres, consisting of such soft wet peat soil as to be incapable of bearing a horse, and which had been ploughed with men. Having lain some years in grass it was planted in lazy beds with potatoes. The crop turned out so abundant both in the size and quality of the roots as to be a matter of surprise to all in the neighbourhood.’

While treating of the agricultural improvements of that early period, it may interest my readers to hear of the rents then paid by tenants for their holdings as compared with present times. I have been favoured with the perusal of the rent-book of Mr. Benjamin Wilson, who, during last century, occupied several well-known farms in the neighbourhood. The following figures taken from it will convey at a glance the great difference in the value of land then and now. In the year 1752 Mr. Wilson paid £26 sterling of annual rent for the farm of Eastfield, which to-day is let at £313, 7s. 5d. In the same year he paid for Herbershaw £18, it being now £117, 15s. 6d. For Cuicken and Eastfield held together he paid in 1771 the sum of £86, 8s., 4d. ; the combined

rental, according to the valuation roll, at the present time is £533, 7s. 5d. Of course the poor condition of the soil and the meagre returns from the sales of produce made higher rents in those old days a matter of impossibility. The ultimate commencement of general improvements upon almost every farm on the Penicuik Barony was, says Mr. Jackson, owing to the enlightened policy of the curators of the late Sir George Clerk, and to his own unremitting attention to the development of his property after he came of age. The Rev. Mr. M'Courty, minister of the parish, writing of a time one hundred years back, says that oats, barley, peas, turnips, and potatoes, succeed well in the parish, but grass was the most profitable crop. Upon the best low grounds the following rotation was adopted—1st, fallow turnips and potatoes; 2d, barley with clover and rye-grass; 3d, hay, one crop only, as the clover generally fails the second crop; 4th, oats. The two-horse chain plough, with the curved mould-board, was, he says, used for improved ground, and the old Scotch wooden plough for that which was unimproved.

Another gentleman, writing at a date about ten years after Mr. M'Courty's notes were embodied in the *Statistical Account of Scotland*, states that nearly every farmer in this neighbourhood had then a threshing-mill driven by horse- or water-power, and fanners for clearing the grain of its chaff. But while our agriculturists of those days were being more comfortably housed, and had obtained the use of many labour-saving appliances, the sending of their produce to market was very difficult of accomplishment. The roads were so bad that such grain as they had to dispose of they took to Edinburgh in boll sacks hung over their horses' backs, giving each other mutual assistance when there was an unusually large quantity to carry. This primitive means of conveyance continued until the end of last century, and is referred to both by Mr. Jackson and Mr. Niven in their pamphlets upon Penicuik.

Mr. M'Courty gives a series of interesting statistics as to the numbers of cattle and sheep, and the rates of wages in 1793, which may be of interest to my agricultural readers. There were then, he says, 44 ploughs, 74 carts, 80 horses, 636 black cattle, and 8000 sheep in the parish of Penicuik. The common wages of men-servants were from £5 to £7 per annum, with bed, board and washing; women-servants £3, with similar perquisites; day-labourers were paid one shilling without, and eightpence with, victuals, and in harvest women got sevenpence and men eightpence to ninepence per day with victuals. From other sources I learn that in 1801 there were 497 people employed in agricultural service in the parish. No doubt the grouping of farms, and the great improvement in labour-saving machinery, will account for the fact that, roughly speaking, little more than a third of that number are now constantly occupied in that way.

As already indicated, great improvements were made during the early years of the century by Sir George Clerk, both in regard to buildings, plantations, enclosures, and draining. Other proprietors were not slow to follow his example. On the farm of Springfield, for instance, which extends to about 500 acres, Mr. Carstairs, its owner, transformed a portion of the bleakest moorland in Midlothian into fairly good and cultivable soil. He intersected the level moss with tramways and canals, and transported the peat for sale as fuel, while he utilised the surplus water which flowed from the moss for the purpose of turning a mill for the manufactory of combs, a business which he had engaged in before he purchased the property. Allusion will be found elsewhere to this enterprising gentleman's laudable efforts to provide a regular coach service to the metropolis. It is also worthy of mention that he received a gold medal from the Highland Society for his essay describing the improvements which

he had made at Springfield. In 1839, a few years after Mr. Jackson wrote his pamphlet describing the agriculture of the district, the Rev. W. Scott Moncrieff, minister of the parish, also prepared a short article on Penicuik for the *New Statistical Account* of Edinburghshire. Both these gentlemen state that the waste land in the parish was then yearly diminishing. Drainage of a sort had been carried on extensively with the happiest results; regular furrow drainage was, however, being introduced but slowly, while that by tiles, which had proved so successful in the west, had not yet been attempted. The fields were enclosed by dry-stone dikes and hedges of beech and thorn, and the soil was so improved by judicious liming and manuring that an astonishing difference was visible in the yield of crops.

This all points to enterprise on the part of tenants as well as landlords, and no one can doubt that we have reason to be proud of many of the agriculturists of a past generation. Not only in matters pertaining to their own industry did they show their intelligence, but also in their public-spirited interest in matters concerning the common weal. A long time prior to the constitution of any responsible village or local authority, a society had been initiated by the farmers in the district for the purpose of detecting and punishing crime. It continued to do good service in this direction until it was superseded by the institution of the rural police, and the erection in the village of a police station. In December 1847 this society resolved to direct its influence to carrying out objects having a tendency towards the improvement of agriculture, and from that date it became known as the Penicuik Farmers' or Agricultural Society. Its constitution was remodelled in 1853, and the members then resolved to offer prizes for the exhibition of stock. The result of this was that the first cattle-show which ever took place in

the parish was held in the August of that year. These shows continued year by year under the auspices of the society, but after a somewhat chequered career they finally ceased in the year 1868. At a meeting convened in July 1869 it was resolved that, on account of the Highland and Agricultural Society's show being to take place in Edinburgh, that year the Penicuik one should not be held. This was the last act of its history, for since that time the society has been practically defunct.

Mr. Jackson commends the farmers of the parish for their general enterprise, but complains of their inattention to the breeding of dairy cattle. This neglect, he says, is the more astonishing, as, from their proximity to Edinburgh, where dairy produce is mostly sent in a fresh state, both in butter and buttermilk, strong inducements, it might be presumed, would be held out on this account for the improvement of the dairy stock of the farm. Had he been spared until the present time, he would have seen that this matter has received very particular attention. During the last thirty years a new race of agriculturists have entered upon the occupancy of most of the land, not more than two or three of the families who were tenants in Mr. Jackson's time being now left upon any of the farms in the parish. As lease after lease expired since the period referred to, they have been taken up by farmers from the west country, and the great majority of these gentlemen have devoted their energies to the development of dairy farming with a consequent improvement in the breeding of cattle adapted to that purpose. During times of recent very great agricultural depression, when in some of the most fertile parts of Scotland hundreds of farmers had to give up their holdings, those in our parish have, almost to a man, been able to struggle through. This has been very much the result of arduous toil, on the part not only of the tenants themselves, but of their wives and families.

In many instances the sweet milk is sent daily to Edinburgh, and, as an evidence of the extent to which this business is carried on, I may here mention that from the farm of Fallhills, which, when it was taken by Mr. George Paterson about sixteen years ago, was a wild and moorland one, he now sends daily the produce of seventy cows to be consumed in the metropolis. A large outlet for the proceeds of the dairy is also found in the village of Penicuik. Formerly its inhabitants used to send to the various farms for such supplies as could not be obtained from the local dairies, but about twenty years ago the late Mr. William Thomson, tenant in Cornbank, with commendable enterprise commenced running vans into the town on the morning and evening of every lawful day with supplies of milk and butter, which were delivered at the houses of the consumers. This was the beginning of that which has now developed into a large and apparently profitable business. As many as fourteen or fifteen vans selling the produce of an equal number of farms are now sent daily into the village, and find a ready market.

Most of the arable land in the parish is now worked on the five-course rotation, and is taken on nineteen years' lease, although in several recent cases mutual breaks at shorter periods have been inserted in them. On all the larger farms the most improved labour-saving implements and machines have been introduced. The first combined reaper and binder in the parish was purchased about two years ago by Mr. James Granger, and is now used upon his farm at Mount Lothian. Double ploughs were in considerable use some years ago, but have in most instances been set aside as too heavy and cumbersome. The American single plough and others, formed upon a similar model, have latterly been much in favour for certain kinds of land. The reaping-machine has itself been a source of immense comfort and convenience to our farmers.

In the early part of the century bands of crofters used to come to the south country for employment in the harvest-field. In more recent times their place was taken by troops of labourers from Ireland, and the housing and feeding of those temporary hands often sorely tried the administrative powers of the farmer's good-wife. Oftentimes these denizens of the Emerald Isle came into the village after their work was done, and became very noisy and bellicose, causing discomfort and not unfrequently alarm to the peace-loving citizens. On more than one occasion were they known to use their sharp reaping-hooks for offensive and defensive purposes, and fingers and ears were not unfrequently chopped off in their drunken orgies.

The farms situated on the Pentland slopes are nearly all pastoral, and the sheep stocks, for the greater part, are of the black-faced breed. Some of the flocks are known throughout the country as of excellent quality. For many years the rams bred by Mr. Thomas Murray on Eastside and Westside fetched the highest prices at the Edinburgh ram sales, and carried off the leading honours at the Highland and Agricultural Society's shows. In the south-east side of the parish, Mr. Thomas Stevenson, late tenant of Mount Lothian, also reached the topmost place in the breeding of Cheviot stock, and generally carried off first prizes whenever he elected to compete at any of the principal exhibitions of cattle throughout the kingdom. At the present time there is a resident stock of about 11,000 sheep and 400 milch cows in the parish. A few of our farmers also rear and fatten cattle for the market, but the number of these is inconsiderable.

OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Penicuik is known throughout our own and other lands as a principal seat of the important industry of paper-making. No



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history of our parish would therefore be complete that did not give some account of the origin and development of the extensive establishments at Valleyfield and Esk Mills, which at present send out to home and foreign markets close upon 200 tons weekly of writing and printing papers. Before entering upon this subject, however, it may interest my readers to learn a little about other industries which have been carried on from time to time within the parish.

Next to the practice of agriculture, the oldest of these were milling and brewing. In early times the staple food of the humbler classes was made from peas, barley, oat flour, and meal, while ale was their favourite beverage. Consequently, to every village there was attached a corn-mill, and often several brew-houses or breweries. At the end of last century there were three corn-mills and one barley mill in the parish. The sites of two of these are not now known. The third was down on the left side of the present Valleyfield road, but at the time referred to was no longer a going concern. The last was on the banks of the Esk below the bridge, and was purchased by Messrs. Cowan in the year 1804, to form part of what is known as Bank Mill. I can find no trace of any brewery existing later than that which, in the year 1789, stood near to the present office-houses of the Royal Hotel. Prior to the time indicated, however, there were other breweries outside the village. The two most important of these were situated at Silverburn and Howgate. In the year 1659 the owner of the former, by name Robert Adamson, was severely dealt with by the Session for selling his ale upon the Sabbath-day. This fact is interesting as showing that in those early times there existed much of that spirit which has prompted more recent legislation on Sunday trafficking in excisable liquors. From 1771 on to near the close of the century, the Howgate brewery was carried on by

an individual bearing the same name and surname as the present owner of the little Howgate property.

Perhaps the next oldest industry to those already mentioned is that of coal-mining. From the middle of the seventeenth to close of the eighteenth century coal was worked on a small scale in the western part of the parish. The coal pits at Brunstane were opened, or rather re-opened, in 1838, and closed again a few years ago; but farther up the water, between Whitbank and Marfield, two pits were worked prior to 1770, and from these such coal as was used in the district would likely be obtained. Towards the close of last century, however, they cannot have been in operation, for I find in the *Statistical Account* that no coal was then worked in the parish at all. The villagers at that time obtained their supplies from Carlops, Loanhead, Whitehill, and Hawthornden, at a cost at the pit-head of 5d., 6d., and 7d. per two cwt., according to quality. Peat was at that time to a large extent the fuel used by the working classes. Of that article there was an abundant supply, and several of the parishioners earned a modest livelihood by driving peat to Edinburgh for consumption there.

The western section of the parish, which is now one of its quietest and most sparsely populated parts, was at the beginning of this century full of bustle and enterprise.

The little village of Carlops, in Peeblesshire, was then occupied by busy weavers. Below its bridge, but situated in Penicuik parish, was a woollen mill in full operation. On the edge of the Esk at Marfield, was a flax mill, and, farther up, a fulling mill and dyehouse. At Gladsheugh was a bleachfield, which, up to the year 1832, kept over six persons in constant employment. Not far from Marfield was a gunpowder mill. It was unfortunately blown up in the year 1830, and several of the workers killed.

Between the years 1773 and 1777, the first cotton mill in Scotland was erected by a company of gentlemen at Esk Mills, in Penicuik parish. Under the able management of a Mr. Brotherston it continued for a number of years to be a most successful undertaking. In the year 1794 this mill gave steady employment to over 500 people. Its cotton yarn was at first only used for weft, but a weaver in the village having tried the dressing of it on a new plan, he succeeded, to the satisfaction of the proprietors, in preparing it for warp also. By degrees the quality of its cotton became famous, and the extensive demand which set in from all parts speedily gave an impetus to the trade in Scotland, which resulted in the building of other mills at Lanark and elsewhere upon new and improved plans. Whether resulting from excessive competition, or from want of enterprise in adopting the necessary machinery, Esk Mills gradually fell behind in the race. In 1811 the business was finally given up, and the premises sold to Government. They were converted into barracks for the accommodation of 1500 soldiers, whose duty it was to guard the French prisoners of war at Valleyfield.

Another industry which flourished in Penicuik about fifty years ago, was that of silk shawl-weaving. Six looms for the purpose were erected by an English company in the old cavalry barracks, now Mr. Tait's joiners' workshop. They imported their webs and wove them into beautiful ladies' plaids—a great demand for which at that time existed from abroad. This factory continued for about fifteen years, and then closed.

The wearing of coloured cottons, gingham, and tweeds, also kept many people in employment during the first thirty years of this century. Within the memory of villagers yet amongst us—George Holbrook, James Niven, Donald Brymer, Thomas Dodds, and others, continued to fight a losing battle against the all-con-

quering power of the steam-looms. In Kirkhill, the Thomsons, Keirs, Simpsons, Mitchelhills, Philips, and Robertsons were equally industrious, but they too had to give up the fight. Fifty years ago there were altogether eight hand-looms at work in the parish; now there is not a single one, and no other similar industry of any importance has ever taken root in our district. The weaving of woollen gloves and underclothing was tried at the Foundry for a short time by Mr. John L. Gibson, who for many years carried on a drapery establishment in the village. After a short trial of it, Mr. Gibson found that the business could be more profitably conducted nearer to the centre of the industry. He consequently migrated, along with his workers, to the town of Dumfries, about fifteen years ago.

As this history deals only with matters relating to Penicuik, I can make no more than a passing allusion to the opening of the Ironstone mines in the neighbouring parish of Glencorse, by the Shotts Iron Company. This took place about the year 1875. The village of Shottstown was erected to provide accommodation for the workers, and as the volume of the Company's operations increased, a corresponding benefit was enjoyed by the village in the accession to its business which the increased population provided. A shaft is now being sunk in our own parish, but I must leave it to the historian of the future to chronicle the development of this important industry.

I shall now proceed to give my readers some account of the origin and development of the extensive paper-mills at Valleyfield and Esk Mills, to which the village of Penicuik entirely owes its growth and prosperity. First in size and importance is the establishment of Alexander Cowan and Sons (Limited). The nucleus of the Valleyfield Mills was built about the year 1708 by Mr. Andrew Anderson, printer to her Majesty Queen Anne.



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He did not live long after their completion, and the business was carried on for some time by his widow, Agnes Campbell. The mill then passed into the hands of Mr. Watkins, and continued in the possession of his family until the year 1773, when it was acquired by Mr. Thomas Boswell. This gentleman did not apparently find the trade a particularly profitable one, for he sold it six years afterwards to Mr. Charles Cowan, merchant in Leith, ancestor of the present proprietors. Mr. Cowan and his two sons, Duncan and Alexander, thereafter carried on a moderately successful business, employing, in these early days, some thirty workpeople, and turning out two to three tons weekly of excellent hand-made paper. About the year 1804 the firm purchased the Penicuik corn mill, which stood on the banks of the Esk, and converted it into a paper-mill. For some time they manufactured there the paper for making bank-notes, and that circumstance gave to the mill the name which it has borne ever since. In 1811 Messrs. Cowan sold the Valleyfield mills to the Government, who required them as a convenient depôt for the accommodation of French prisoners of war. Napoleon Bonaparte, after many years of brilliant military success, was at that time beginning to experience the bitterness of disaster and defeat. Wellington had delivered Portugal from his hands, and had captured the great frontier fortresses of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz. Salamanca had also been fought and won, and a great number of prisoners had been captured. These, with others, who at Martinique and Trafalgar had proved themselves foemen worthy of British steel, were, to the number of 6000, conveyed to Valleyfield and confined there. The change was not a welcome one to the inhabitants of our little village. The place, from which formerly was heard only the hum of busy labour, now rang with the sentry's challenge and the tread of armed men. The shouts and incoherent

noises from the prison yards disturbed the quiet valley, even upon the Sabbath-day, when formerly silence reigned supreme. Little wonder then, that at the end of the military occupation in 1818, when the good news spread that Mr. Cowan had re-purchased the mills, there was an illumination of the village, followed by a day of general rejoicing. The only visible token of the enforced residence of these Frenchmen amongst us is the handsome monument in the Valleyfield House grounds, erected by the late Alexander Cowan to the memory of 309 of them, who were destined never again to see the sunny land from which they came. On the stone is inscribed the line from Sannazarius, suggested by Sir Walter Scott:—

‘GRATA QUIES PATRIAE, SED ET OMNIS TERRA SEPULCHRUM.’

Another inscription on the stone states that it was ‘erected by certain inhabitants of the parish.’ This is one specimen of many of the ways by which good Mr. Cowan tried to prevent his kind deeds being known. To enable him truthfully to say that in this case others shared the cost, he obtained a contribution of five shillings from Mr. Allan the watchmaker. With exception of this small sum, Mr. Cowan bore the entire cost of the chaste and substantial sepulchral stone. His ear and hand were indeed ever open to the cry of distress. It is known that, independently of the £16,000 which he gave to charitable institutions in Edinburgh, the money which he spent in works of love and kindness exceeded all his other expenses of a personal and family nature. His love for Penicuik was shown in many ways, not the least tangible being his legacy to provide for an abundant supply of pure water being brought into the village from the Silverburn spring at a cost of £3000.

Sir Walter Scott spoke of him on one occasion as a good and able man, and this opinion was shared by all, for truly Mr. Cowan

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wrote his name in kindness and in love on the hearts of those with whom he came in contact on his way through life.

Prior to again becoming possessors of Valleyfield Mill, Messrs. Cowan had purchased the small paper-mill known as Low Mill. So far back as the year 1707, the portion of ground upon which it stands was taken by a Mr. David Wilson for the purpose of building a Waulk-mill and planting a kail-yard. After his death in 1749, it was sublet by his son and heir to Mr. Richard Nimmo, stationer, Edinburgh, and by him converted into a paper-mill. It continued to be used as such until its acquisition by Messrs. Cowan. Its business did not suffer by the change of ownership. Although the method of manufacturing paper was then primitive, and its demand limited, the excellence of the firm's products soon became known throughout the kingdom, and they rapidly attained to a front rank in the trade. Before the first quarter of a century had run its course, a great revolution was accomplished at Valleyfield. This was brought about by the introduction of the Fourdrinier machine, along with elaborate apparatus for the rapid drying of the paper. These changes are thus described by a worthy villager who lived at that time: 'Valleyfield Mill,' he says, 'has lately got machinery to make paper, which supplies the place of a great number of men; I am informed that one of these will do more in one day than a dozen of men, and it makes excellent paper. The paper-makers, I fear, will be hurt by this invention; the consequence is already felt, their wages are reduced, and at present there is a general outstand here.' Had the good man been spared to see the present busy hive of industry, wherein are employed between seven and eight hundred workpeople, his dismal views of the future of their predecessors would no doubt have been very considerably modified.

About ten years after the time referred to, the wages of the men employed in mills were from 2s. to 3s. per day, the women 9d. to 1s. 3d., and children 6d. to 10d. As years rolled on the enterprise and wise judgment of Messrs. Charles and John Cowan, who now controlled the fortunes of the firm, led to continued success. In 1861 the abolition of the paper-duty, coming soon after the removal of the tax which had so long fettered the newspaper press, gave a further impetus to their trade; about the same time also, a cheaper substitute for rags, in the shape of esparto, was introduced into the manufacture, and this also marked a new era in the rapidly developing business of Messrs. Cowan. The greater pollution of the river, caused by the preparation of the grass, unfortunately proved the cause of costly litigation. In the year 1866, the well-known 'Esk Pollution case' resulted in a verdict of a jury adverse to the paper-makers. This decision caused immense outlay to the firm of Alex. Cowan and Sons. They first erected an establishment near to the mouth of the Esk at Musselburgh, for the treatment of the fibre, but with characteristic enterprise, the place was ere long converted by them into another large paper-mill, which is now managed by their relative, Mr. Robert C. Menzies. The treatment of the esparto was, in consequence, again resumed at Valleyfield, where large settling-ponds, combined with an improvement in the treatment of the residual products, permit of the water used in the mills being returned, in a comparatively pure state, into the river.

Up to the year 1888 the active control at Valleyfield had been for a long period in the hands of Mr. James Birrell. This gentleman, when quite a lad, had entered the service of the Messrs. Cowan, and by his great ability and business qualification speedily worked his way up to the important position of manager of the mills. In the year indicated, however, Mr.

Birrell's connection with the firm ceased. Mr. Charles W. Cowan and his two sons, Messrs. Alexander Cowan and Robert Craig Cowan, have recently carried out great structural alterations ; and expensive new machinery, in the shape of a new steam-engine of 800 horse-power, and splendid new beater-engines, has been fitted up at Valleyfield. These, with other improvements, permit of an increased out-put of paper, combined with a considerable reduction in the staff of workers. The weekly out-put of writing and printing papers at Valleyfield, Bank, and Low Mills at the present time approaches one hundred tons, and in addition to this is the large quantity of printing and enamelled papers made at the Musselburgh Mill. Nor have the operations of the firm been confined to manufacturing alone ; their distributive agencies are to be found all over the world. Besides their large establishments in Cannon Street, London, Register Street and Craigside, Edinburgh, and D'Olier Street, Dublin, Messrs. Cowan have business houses in Manchester, Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney, Dunedin, and Brisbane. By the medium of these and other agencies the products of the Valleyfield Mills are known throughout all parts of the civilised globe. At the various international exhibitions in London, Paris, Dublin, and elsewhere, Messrs. Alexander Cowan and Sons have again and again been awarded honours for the excellence of their papers. Last year (1889) this extensive business was, with the exception of the London house, formed into a limited liability company, but it is understood that the greater portion of the stock is held by members or relatives of the Cowan family.

JAMES BROWN AND Co., LIMITED, ESK MILLS.

I have already related how the mills now owned by James Brown and Co., Limited, were in 1811 sold to the Government for

the accommodation of the troops whose duty it was to guard the French prisoners at Valleyfield. After the peace they were bought by Messrs. Haig of Lochrin and others, and fitted up with paper-making machinery. The new industry did not prove successful in the hands of this syndicate, the result being that in the year 1821, the whole concern was acquired by Mr. James Brown, to whom they had incurred heavy financial obligations. Under the able management of this gentleman, ultimately assisted by his son-in-law, Mr. Thomas M'Dougal, the business of the firm of James Brown and Co. developed with wonderful rapidity, and with corresponding financial success. After the death of Mr. Brown, which took place on 28th October 1852, Mr. M'Dougal, with characteristic enterprise and ability, still further enlarged the works, adopting such of the modern appliances and improvements in machinery as were desirable. By this means he ever kept well to the front in a trade which, since the abolition of the tax which had fettered the newspaper press, and the removal of the duty on paper, had advanced with leaps and bounds. Mr. Thomas M'Dougal died on 12th October 1871. He will ever be remembered in this district as a man of kindly heart and upright character. As an employer he was liberal in his dealings with his workpeople. His keen discernment of character was seen in his selection of those whom he asked to serve under him. The result is apparent to all in the numbers of intelligent and highly respectable men, who have ever been identified with the works at Esk Mills. In many cases the sons and grandsons of the original employés continue to serve the present firm with the same energy and faithfulness that were shown by their predecessors. Mr. M'Dougal was succeeded in the management of the mills by his sons, Mr. Edward M'Dougal, now of Oriniston Hall, and Mr. Thomas M'Dougal of Dalhousie Castle. His youngest son,



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Mr. James M'Dougal, entered the army, and is now Lieutenant-Colonel commanding Her Majesty's 1st Battalion South Lancashire regiment of foot.

During recent years great structural alterations and enlargements have been carried out at Esk Mills under the active superintendence of Mr. Frederick M'Dougal Williams, Mr. John Jardine, the present working manager, and Mr. John Cranston, cashier. The most recent improvements in machinery have been introduced at enormous cost. The employé's number three hundred ; and the weekly out-put of high-class printing paper from the four machines is about one hundred tons.

In February 1890 the business was turned into a limited company, but it is understood that the principal shareholders are those who for a number of years have had an active interest in the concern.

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about fallen down, so that puir cadgeris, travellars, and other passengers resortand, will be forcit to their grait skaith to pass three or four miles about.' On this account the lairds of Craigmillar, Pennycuke, and Hawthornden, the bailie of the barony of Glencorse and Castlelaw, and the whole of the ministers of the Presbytery of Peebles, have agreed that petitioner shall be commissioner for repair of said bridges. He petitions for such commission accordingly to this effect, that the King and Council give the petitioner power for two years to uplift the following duties: For every horseman 2d.; every footman 1d.; every cow or ox 2d.; every 10 sheep 4d.; every cart 2s.; and every horse and pack 8d. The allusion to the Presbytery of Peebles in the above, as one of the authorities whose sanction has been obtained, is interesting, as showing that the ecclesiastical courts had some jurisdiction in such matters in those times.

In further illustration of this, the following extracts from the Session minutes prove how, as a kind of court of appeal, even in the question of rights of way, the Church had no little influence in settling disputes.

The date of the first is March 28th, 1675, and runs thus: 'William Steel of Newhall complains that the ordinary and only way to the kirk was stopt between Ravenshauch and Newbigging, and that therefore he could not come to church. The minister and elder considering the stopping of that ordinary passage, which accommodates all the tenants of Newhall, Marfield, Brunstane, and Ravenshaugh, to the kirk, and that without that passage they could not be well accommodated with any other way, and upon several other accounts declare that they think that passage without publicity cannot be stopt, and seeing that the minister has already dealt with the Laird of Pennycuke for opening that passage, resolve to send two of their number, James Oswald

of Spittal and David Hislop of Mosshouses, to deal with Penny-cuke to that effect.'

The next is dated February 22d, 1676, and runs thus: 'Appeared Alexander Pennycook of Newhall, relating to the Session by way of complaint that seeing the ordinary and old way for him and his tenants to the kirk was now shut up by a gate upon a straight passage of the same by the directions of the Laird of Penycuke, and no new sufficient way made in place thereof, according to the law of the land, he desired with his tenants to be excused if he did not come to the parish kirk with them until this passage was made patent, to whom the minister and elders unanimously replied that they were sorry that he had not an easy way to kirk with his family and tenants, and that if in their power they would help him to one; but forasmuch as they are not competent judges of highways, that therefore he might make his address to the judge competent, who, they doubted not, would provide him a good way according to Act of Parliament, and the rather as they had used all their means with the Laird of Penny-cuke before now for continuing the old way.'

The road referred to in these appeals would probably be upon much the same track as that which existed up to near the middle of the present century, leading from the village up the waterside to Brunstane, and from thence to Marfield, joining the old Biggar road at Unthank. At the time when these complaints of the high-handed action of the Penicuik laird were made, there can have been no path available but one for foot-passengers or horsemen, for there were then no roads in the parish suitable for carriage traffic. Sledges only could be used for the transport of heavy material. Readers of *The Gentle Shepherd* may remember Glau'd's allusion to this fact when addressing Symon in Song viii., thus—

‘ I’ll yoke my sled and send to the neist town,
And bring a draught of ale baith stout and brown.’

Writing in 1793, the Rev. Mr. M‘Courty describes the two main turnpike roads as ‘ full of pulls and extremely fatiguing and irksome to travellers.’ In the good old days of a hundred years ago no improvement upon the ancient methods of road-making had been introduced. The shortest cut was then the first consideration. Up hill and down dale, no matter how high the gradient or how deep the slough at the bottom, was the order of things. Mr. M‘Courty mentions the fact that a by-road had been recently made between the village and Howgate. No way of reaching that hamlet, other than through the fields, formerly existed, except the circuitous road by Kirkhill, Harpersbrae, and Maybank. The reverend gentleman also says that a communication was being formed from the Linton road across the hills, which would give access to the eastern parts of the parish on the other side of the range, over which there had been hitherto no easy passage. This would undoubtedly be the path now known as the right of way which enters the Pentlands near Silverburn, proceeding by the Wester Kip and Bavelaw, Redford and Balerno, a distance of twelve miles. The present main road from Edinburgh to Penicuik was finished about 1812, and proved an immense boon to the parishioners of that time as well as to their successors in times more recent. Mr. James Niven of Penicuik, in his pamphlet entitled *Reflections on the Days of Youth*, published in 1824, alludes to the great improvement in the turnpike roads of the parish since his school-days, when he says they were so bad that the farmers sent all their produce on horses’ backs to Edinburgh. The village, he continues, ‘ was then a good distance from the turnpike, and a carriage, with the exception of the laird’s, was such a wonder to be seen, that all the inhabitants turned out to

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gaze, wonder, and admire.' Within a dozen years or so from the time at which Mr. Niven wrote, a considerable development in road-making took place within the parish, and, thanks to that intelligent Scotsman, Mr. Macadam, the quality as well as the number of them was greatly improved.

Rev. W. Scott Moncrieff, writing in 1836, alludes to the three great turnpikes traversing the parish from north to south, viz., the old Dumfries road by Howgate, the new one by Penicuik village, and a lately much improved line by Ninemileburn. There is, he says, also another turnpike road recently opened connecting Penicuik with West Linton, while a parallel line was being carried through between Penicuik and Ninemileburn. This latter road is that which begins at the finger-post on the Edinburgh road, continuing by Cornbank, Kersewell, and Walston, on to Carlops. Prior to 1854 the only road to the west available for carriage traffic went up past the Episcopal Chapel, through the high park to the south of the present main entrance-gate to Penicuik House, on by the Tipenny lodge, up through Lowrie's den to the old high road, which then continued much in its present track until about 300 yards west of Silverburn, where, clinging close to the base of the hills on past Walston steading, it finally joined the line of the present Carlops road, a little distance to the north of that village. The other turnpike to Linton mentioned by Mr. Moncrieff was formerly called Bolton's road, from the name of the contractor who built it, and is now known as the Harlaw Muir road. There is at present little traffic upon it, and a considerable portion of it is grass-grown.

The parish is indeed now supplied with good roads in all directions. The control of them has been vested by the Local Government (Scotland) Act of 1889 in the Midlothian County Council, and it will be the duty of the representatives from the

burgh and parish of Penicuik to see that they are henceforward kept in a creditable condition.

COACHES AND RAILWAYS.

The great development of our turnpike system during the present century caused a proportionate increase in the means of communication with other centres of population, as well as an improvement in the kind and equipment of the conveyances used in the transport of passengers.

Prior to the beginning of the present century only one vehicle was available for the purpose of conveying passengers from Penicuik to Edinburgh. This was the carrier's cart, which travelled on Tuesdays and Saturdays to the metropolis, putting up at Paterson's of the Candlemaker Row, and latterly at Eckford's in the Grassmarket.

About the year 1803 another primitive conveyance became available, to a limited extent, for travellers from this district. This was a plain wooden vehicle placed upon two wheels and without springs, called William Wilson's *Caravan*, which left Peebles at eight o'clock in the morning, passing Maybank, and reaching Edinburgh at six o'clock in the evening. This exceedingly slow coach was superseded about the year 1806 by the Fly, an old-fashioned post-chaise, which held three inside and one outside—the latter sitting upon an uneasy swinging seat beside the driver. It was drawn by two horses, and, including a stoppage of an hour at Howgate, it made the journey from Peebles to Edinburgh in five hours, going the one day and returning the next. It is worthy of remark, however, that at this period a hackney coach could be hired in Edinburgh for a drive to Penicuik for the modest sum of six shillings. Stage coaches now began to

run regularly between Edinburgh and Dumfries, passing through Auchendinny, the Pike, and Howgate, on their way. The Carlisle coach also went *via* Maybank, Howgate, and Peebles, on by Innerleithen, Selkirk, and Hawick, to its final destination.

Both these conveyances were taken advantage of to a limited extent for local traffic. So also was the Dumfries coach, which, about 1820, began to run by the new road from Edinburgh through Penicuik, Noblehouse, and Blythe Bridge. Some years afterwards, owing to the public spirit and enterprise of Mr. John Carstairs of Springfield, an omnibus was started to carry passengers between Wellington Inn and the metropolis, leaving the first-mentioned place in the morning and returning in the afternoon. This he carried on for a considerable time, greatly to the public advantage, after which it passed into the hands of Messrs. Croall, Edinburgh. It is within the recollection of residents, yet comparatively young, how Croall's coach, as it was then called, had finally to yield to the all-conquering power of steam, and ceased to exist as a medium of communication with the metropolis.

Long before that time, however, the Peebles train, which then as now stopped at Pomathorn station, was largely taken advantage of by Penicuik travellers, as well as by the mill-owners for their heavy goods traffic. The bill giving powers to execute this line was carried through Parliament without opposition on 8th July 1853. The Railway Company so constituted was empowered to raise a capital of £70,000 in shares of £10, and to borrow in addition £23,000. In 1857 another Act authorised the creation of new shares to the extent of £27,000 in £10 shares, guaranteeing a dividend of five per cent., making in all a capital of £120,000.

The line was opened for traffic on 4th July 1855, and in 1861 it was leased in perpetuity by the Peebles Railway Company to

the North British Railway Company, which now works the traffic on terms mutually advantageous. The distance of this railway from the valley of the Esk ultimately proved a source of inconvenience to the papermakers on the upper reaches of that river, and they determined in consequence to lay down a line for goods and passenger traffic nearer to their own works. The necessary powers were obtained ; a sum of over £6000 was paid to the proprietors of land for way-rights, and a branch line from the Peebles railway at Hawthornden was laid right up to Penicuik, at an additional cost of over £62,000. This was finished in the year 1872. The North British Railway, who supplied the train service, ultimately purchased the property and entered into possession in the month of June 1877.

CHAPTER VIII.

LANDED ESTATES—FAMILIES AND THEIR HISTORY.

THERE are at present thirteen heritors of the parish of Penicuik. These are Sir George D. Clerk, Baronet, Penicuik ; Charles William Cowan, Loganhouse ; Horatio Forbes Brown, Newhall ; George Johnston, Bavelaw ; the Earl of Rosebery, as owner of the farm of Fullarton ; James Greenhill, banker, Edinburgh, proprietor of Mosshouses ; James Pow, Walltower and Greybrae ; Robert Robertson, Anns Mill and Roseview ; Thomas E. Steuart, banker, Edinburgh, proprietor of Stellknowe ; representatives of Wellington Farm ; trustees of the late Mr. Alexander, Howgate ; Marion Murray, Springfield and Netherton ; and James Abernethy, Wester Howgate.

The eight last mentioned hold their respective properties on long leases from the owner of the Penicuik estate, and are assessed on a very small sum for minister's stipend and church property repairs. The portion of Lord Rosebery's estate which gives him a connection with this parish is so small and remote that it will hardly warrant any extended notice of past and present owners. In the case, however, of the four principal heritors I shall endeavour to give an account of their families, as well as a history of their predecessors in the ownership of the lands, in the hope that such may be of interest to my readers. First in extent and

importance comes the barony of Penicuik. At one period, according to Chalmers the historian, the barony and the parish were co-extensive. The yewthird and middlethird of the Slipperfields at West Linton were also then a pendicle of the Penicuik estate. Considerable portions of their original possessions must, however, have been alienated at a very early period from the old proprietors, for at the beginning of the sixteenth century there were as many as eight possessors of freehold property in the parish. The earliest known proprietors were the Penicoks of that Ilk. Their *reddendo* was, 'Three blasts of a horn when the king came hunting on the Borough Muir.' This, taken in connection with the three-stringed bows on their crest, inclines one to believe that they were originally hereditary rangers or hunters to the Scottish kings. They were not in early times a family of any eminence, and the ancient charters having long ago disappeared, it is now of course impossible either to ascertain their origin or the date of their acquisition of the barony. I think it reasonable to believe, however, that during the tide of Saxon colonisation, which took place during the reign of David 1., the first Penicok would probably obtain possession of the lands, and take from them his surname. Amongst the Saxon, Norman, and Flemish settlers who were invited and attracted to the Court of the Scottish king, and to whom he gave munificent grants of land, were many Northumbrian nobles, and amongst them in all likelihood would be the Penicoks. I am confirmed in this belief by the fact that King Edward 1. wrote to his Chancellor on 14th March 1303, ordering the restitution of his lands and heritages in Northumberland to Hugh de Penicok, knight, who, he says, had come to the peace. On the 4th April of the same year the king, in a letter dated from Newcastle-on-Tyne, further orders the resident Sheriff, not only to restore Penicok's heritages, but to

treat him with all dignity and respect. These transactions without doubt indicate a previous connection of the family with that county.

The first of the line whose name I have been able to obtain was William de Penicok. It occurs in one of the documents registered by the abbey scribe of Newbattle, where it is set forth how King Alexander II. issued his precept to John de Vaux, sheriff of Edinburgh, and Gilbert Frazer, sheriff of Traquair, to Heris his forester, and William de Penicok, another officer, that they go in person to the ground, and there by oath of good and faithful men of the country make to be extended the pasture of Lethanhope, with its pertinents; and, that extent made, that they inform the king by letters under their seals of the said extent and the yearly value of the said pasture.

The family appear shortly after this time to have risen in rank and importance, for the next owner is a knight of the shire, by name Sir Nigel de Penicok. Sir Nigel espoused the national cause, and in consequence had his estates confiscated by the English king. The name of his widow appears in a petition of various ladies addressed to Edward I., claiming restitution of their rights, which is preserved amongst other interesting Scottish documents. She asks those lands to be returned to her with which she had been endowed twenty years previously, probably at the time of her marriage. Her prayer had apparently been granted, for she and her son Hugh obtained livery of their lands after they signed the Ragman Rolls at Berwick on 26th August 1296. This name is given to the five great rolls of parchment which the Scottish nobles and clergy, either for fear or favour, filled with their seals and autographs, indicating their fealty and obedience to the English king. Penicok's seal is a griffin passant to dexter, with a curved object representing a bow

in front, while his signature is printed thus, HYGONIS de PENEKOL. Lady Margaret and her son had not long continued in their allegiance, as will be seen from perusal of the following interesting letter, which has also been preserved amongst the historical documents of Scotland. It is from John de Kingston, Constable of Edinburgh Castle, to Walter de Langton, Lord-Treasurer of England. He writes thus :—‘Intelligence has come to me that the Lady of Penicok (which is 10 leagues from our Castle) has received her son, who is against the peace, and that other evil-doers are there harboured and received, whereof I caused all the beasts of the said town to be sought for and brought to our Castle, and part of them I have delivered to the poor people who say they are at peace with us, and I have retained the remainder until the approach of our troops, and the withdrawal of the Scots, so that if we need we may take some of them for the king’s money.’ He further asks for approval of his action, finishing with the words—‘Sire, may God give you a good and long life. Written at Maiden Castle on August 9th, 1298.’ The above letter is interesting as containing the first known allusion to the town of Penicuik, and also for the information it gives as to the attitude of the inhabitants of our parish in the great conflict which was then raging between a portion of the Scottish people, under the leadership of their brave guardian, Sir William Wallace, and the English king.

Notwithstanding his repeated defections Sir Hugh appears again to have made his peace with Edward, for, as already stated, he obtained restitution of his lands in Northumberland by order of that monarch on March 3, 1303. His sons Nigel and John, indeed, entered the English service, and in the year 1312 they were serving at Dundee under William de Montfichet, who commanded that garrison. Nigel succeeded his father in the owner-

ship of the barony, but died before he had been long in possession. His son and heir, as also his lands, were given by King Edward into the custody of one John de Landals. I have been unable to find the name of the young knight, but it is possible that he may have been that Sir David de Penicok who, in 1373, granted to his cousin, William de Creichtoune, the lands of Brunstane and Welchtoune. It is needless further troubling my readers with a list of the names of the successive owners, for, with one or two exceptions, up to the close of the sixteenth century, they were all Sir John Penycukis. The last Sir John was succeeded by his son Andrew, and it is rather curious to notice that in the deed, dated 20th February 1591, confirming his succession, and that of his heirs and assignees, the *reddendo* is described as 'Six blasts of a flowing horn on the common moor of Edinburgh, of old called the forest of Drumselch, at the king's hunt on the said moor, in name of blench.' In every other charter which I have read the number of blasts is mentioned as three. It is not unlikely that a clerical error may be an explanation of this discrepancy. Andrew Penycuke of that Ilk died in the early part of the year 1603, and Alexander, his brother, was served heir to his estates. In subsequent pages my readers will see that this last of the line was a wild and dissolute man, who succeeded in running through his patrimony in a very short time. On December 19, 1603, a contract was entered into between him and Mr. John Prestoun of Fentonbarns anent the sale to the latter of the lands and barony of Penycuke, and on 22d March 1604 he granted procuratory of resignation in favour of the said John Prestoun. They were resigned accordingly, and on 29th March of the same year Mr. Prestoun had a charter of the lands from the Crown, and thus passed away from them for ever the ancient heritage of the Penycukes. From Privy Council records, historical documents,

and other sources, I have gleaned a variety of incidents in the history of this old family which are interesting, as throwing light upon the habits and life of its members and their dependants at different periods. It has already been stated that the Penycukes were not originally a family of influence. By the beginning of the sixteenth century, however, they had become more prominent. During the greater part of it, indeed, the successive owners were members of the Scottish Parliament, and frequently occupied important offices in the State. During the sixteenth century I find their names constantly mentioned as members of assize, and frequently as cautioners for the good behaviour of prominent Scottish noblemen and gentry. Instead, however, of always acting in the honourable capacity of law-makers, some of the lairds were more conspicuous as law-breakers. In this, however, they were not worse than their neighbours. For a long period in Scottish history the nobles and inferior barons were completely independent of the power of the Crown, and bade defiance to law and order. The country in consequence was in a state of constant turmoil, owing to their sanguinary and interminable feuds. At an assize held on 30th August 1529, Sir John Penycuke and his brother Alexander were convicted of unlawful convocation of the lieges, the result of their aiding and abetting in a deadly feud which took place between the lairds of Edmonston and Niddry. In the year 1532 the Penicuik laird, along with Crichtoun of Newhall, and Sir William Sinclair of Roslin, is amerced for non-appearance at assize. The two brothers, John and Alexander, were indeed seldom out of trouble of one kind or another. In 1537 they were both before the Court charged with an assault upon one Roger Tuedy of Lynton, whose thumb it was alleged they had cut off in some sanguinary encounter. Upon this occasion, however, they were proved innocent, and their accusers

punished for perjury. In the year 1576 the Sir John of that period had apparently mortgaged a portion of his lands to the representatives of St. Leonard's College, St. Andrews. The interest upon the bond amounted to 22 merks yearly. When it became due he either had not the money, or wanted the will to part with it, for he is sued for payment, and an officer is sent to poind certain effects. The officer accordingly secured forty ewes and lambs, and was driving them off when the laird's two sons, William and Gilbert, with Robert Yule, their servant, did, as the indictment sets forth, 'violentie reft and tuke them fra the officiar, and so deforcit him in the execution of his office. And anent the charge given to the said John Penycuke to have compeared personalie, and have brocht and presented with him the utheris personis above mentioned on a certain day past, under pane of rebellion and putting him to the horn. Quhilkis being callit, and not compearand, my Lord Regentis grace thairfor, with advice of saids Lordis, ordains letters to be direct to denunce the said John Penycuke our Soverane Lordis rebell, and his goods to be escheit.'

As further showing the lawless and cruel actions frequently perpetrated in those days, the following extract from the records of the court in Linlithgow is interesting, the more so as it contains allusion to the village of Penicuik, and to a well-known farm in its immediate neighbourhood :—

Linlithgow, 22d October 1595.—'Complaint by James Bellenden of Bruchton and Dame Margaret Levingstoun, his tutrix, for her interest, as follows: Upon 6th Sept. last Andro Penycuke, apparent of that Ilk, Gilbert Penycuke, his father's brother, and Johne Penycuke, son of the late James Penycuke, father's brother of the said Gilbert, with their accomplices, "bodin in feir of weir," with hacquebatis, pistolettes, and utheris weaponis, invasive came

at night to the house of Michael Archibald in Cukin, the complainer's tenant, of sett purpose to murder him, and finding the doors closed, forcibly broke the house, entered therein, and searched for the said Michael in all pairts thereof, threatening his wife and bairns with all kinds of crueltie; and seeing they could not find him, efter intromitting with gold and silver and other gear in the said house, they shamefully and cruelly assaulted William Adam, the said Michael's servant, wounded him in divers parts of his body, and left him for deid; not content therewith, they passed to the town of Penycuke, and brocht fyre agaitworde to the house of sett purpois tressonable to have brint the samin. Still further, upon the morn thereafter they came again to the said house, and commanded the tenants of the said lands to leave occupation thair of, and nivir to be fundin thair thairefter, threatening and minassing to hoich thair oxen and hang thamselffis over thair bakes giff thay did contrair.' The complainers appeared by Walter Cranstoun and the said Michael Archibald their procurators; the defenders, failing to appear, are to be denounced rebels.

The last of the long line of Penycukes who owned the barony was that Alexander of whom mention has already been made. After selling his paternal acres he entered the King's Guard. Regimental discipline had not been very strict in those days, else he would not have been allowed to have worn his Majesty's uniform for a very long time. In the chapter which gives an account of the clergymen of the parish, it will be seen how, along with the minister's son and others, he committed a ruthless assault upon one Captain Rig, on a certain Sabbath morning, when he was returning from worship.

It would almost appear indeed as if Sunday was his favourite day for shedding blood. In the Register of the Privy Council there is the following entry:—Upon a Sunday in February 1608

Umphra Gray, merchant burgess of Edinburgh, 'having remainit all that day in the kirk at the sermone according to his accustomed maner, and efter the efternones sermone, having stayt in the kirk quhill about seven of the clock at nycht, and than comeing hame to his ane house in a sober and quiet maner to have gottin his supper, he took purpois to reid some twa or thre chaptouris of the Bible, quhill his supper had been reddy, as he was at this exercise, sitting at his awne table, without anie other companie in his house saulding his awne servaund woman, Alexander Penycuke, ane of his majestie's guard, with other twa personis, all unknown to the complainer, came to his house by way of hame-sucken, gaif him thrie grite straikes with a baton upon the head, and fellit him thairwith, and he being fallen to the ground, and having lost his senses, thay the farder to utter thair crueltie aganis the said complainair, gaif him ither thrie straikes upon the heid with a drawn durk.'

Pursuer appearing by Helen Cluech his spouse, the said Alexander failing to appear, the Lords decern him to be denounced rebel.

It is some satisfaction to know that his victim recovered from his wounds, and a record is preserved showing how he received from James Prymrois, clerk of the Council, in name of Alexander Penycuke, one of his Majesty's guard, the sum of £100, the fine imposed upon him for hurting Gray. On the 24th October of the same year there is a complaint by James Watson, portioner at Saughton; it is as follows: In violation of an act of Secret Council against assault within the burgh of Edinburgh, 'Alexander Penycuke, son of the late Sir John Penycuke of that Ilk, already guiltie of mony bloodsches and oppin insolenceis, came at 6 hours at even, accompanied by George Smaill, indweller in the said burgh, both being armed with swords, gauntlets,

and plait slieves, to the pursuer in the Cowgate, he being then lopping on his horse going agaitwarde hame to his awne house in Saughton, and there fiercely set upon him with drawn swordis, gafe him a grite stryke on the heid, cuttit off the knop of his left elbow, and wounded him in the left arm. Further, as pursuer had reparit to the barbouris for pansing of his said woundis, followit by his servaund, Penycuke put violente hands on the said servaund, and would have slain him if he had not escapit.' Pursuer and Smail appearing personally, the Lords assoilzie Smail, but order Penycuke to be denounced for non-compearance. I could quote many more instances in further illustration of the evil life led by this unworthy representative of a good old family, but space forbids. Over and over again he is bound down to keep the peace; on only one occasion does he appear as the wronged one. An entry in the books of Council records how David Kelso, cutler in Edinburgh, 'is ordainit to be denunciit for invading Alexander Penycuke, sometime of that Ilk, and now ane of his majesties guard, behind his back, and mutilating him of twa fingers.' On this occasion he had evidently some experience of the suffering which he so freely administered to others.

In the Register of the Privy Council, volume ix., there is an account of the final banishment of this most unworthy man. It is as follows: '*October 1612.*—The quhilk day, in presence of the Lordes of Secret Counsale, comperit personalie Alexander Penycuke, James Mourtoun, and Patrick Mourtoun, and actit and oblist thameselffis that within the space of threttie dayis after the date heirof they sall depairt and pas furthe of this realme, and not returne agane within the same without his majesties licence obtenit to that effect, under the pane of deade; and in the meantyme quhill thai depairt and pas furthe of this realme, that thai sall behave thameselffis deutifullie under the said pane.'

As we have already seen (pp. 129, 130), descendants of the Penycukes again came to the parish some thirty-five years later, as proprietors of the estate of Newhall, of whom an account will be found towards the close of this chapter.

As before stated, the lands of Penycuke were sold to Mr. John Prestoun of Fentonbarns. He received his charter from the Crown on 31st March 1604, and immediately entered into possession. It is possible, I think, that he purchased the estate of Brunstane from the Crichtounes about the same time. The career of this gentleman is well worthy of record. The son of a baker in Edinburgh, he studied for the law and passed in due time as advocate. He was commissary of Edinburgh from 1580 to 1599, and also one of the town assessors. For some time he held the offices of Clerk Register and Collector General of the King's Augmentations. He received the appointment of a Senator of the College of Justice on 12th March 1595, and was a member of Privy Council and of the Scottish Parliament. On the 23d December 1607 he was appointed vice-president of the Court of Session, and on 6th June 1609 he was promoted to the high position of Lord President of that court. In October 1606 an Act was passed in his favour, ratifying gifts of pension of £1087, 10s. and 24 bolls of meal to him and his eldest son for life. Again, on April 1611, on account of his old age and long services to the State, he received a further grant of pension for life of £1000 per annum, to be continued to his two younger sons, George and James, between them, with benefit of survivorship. Mr. Prestoun was twice married, first to a lady of the Scott of Balwearie family, and secondly to Lilius Gilbert, the daughter of a wealthy Edinburgh merchant. Prior to his purchase of Penycuke he had acquired the estate of Fentonbarns in East Lothian, also Goodtrees, now Moredun, near Edinburgh. He died on 14th June

1616, and was succeeded in the ownership of the Penycuke estates by his eldest son, John Prestoun. This gentleman, like his father, had studied for the law, and he became Solicitor-General about the year 1621. He was also a member of the Scottish Parliament, and was created Baronet on 22d February 1628. Sir John was married to Elizabeth, only daughter of William Turnbull, the owner of Airdrie, Thomastoun, Sypsies, Pitkerrie, and other estates. William Turnbull died in 1614, and on 9th August of that year Dame Elizabeth, wife of Sir John Prestoun of Penycuke, was served heir to her father in his numerous lands, the list of which occupies nearly a whole column of the retours. Soon after her death, which occurred in the year 1623, Sir John again married, the lady being Agnes, daughter of John Lundine of that ilk.

Sir John Prestoun continued owner of the Penycuke estates for thirty years, but finally sold them in 1646 to Dame Margaret Scot, Countess of Eglintoun. The record from the Register of Sasines, volume xxxiv, folio 68, is as follows : Sept. 1st, 1646—‘Sasine on Charter by Sir John Preston of Airdrie, Knight, in favour of Lady Margaret Scot, Countess of Eglintoun, her heirs and assignees whomsoever, heritably and irredeemably, of all and whole the lands and barony of Pennycuik with pertinents, viz., the town and lands of Pennycuik with the mill, mill lands and multures, together with the dominical lands, commonly called the Maynes of Pennycuik, with the tower thereof, now called the Royal Town and lands of Newbigging, with houses, edifices, and pertinents thereof, the lands of Lufnes and Silverburne, the lands of Dyknuik, the lands of Bruntestoun, with manor place, houses, edifices, gardens, orchards, parts and pendicles thereof, the lands of Raveinshauch, the lands of Braidwood, the lands of Welchtoun, the lands of Auchincorth with the commonty of Pennycuik, with parts, pendicles, annexis, connexis, dependencies, tenants, tenandries, service of free

tenants, etc., of all the foresaid lands, with advocacy, donation, and right of patronage of the Parish Kirk of Pennycuik, lying in the shire of Edinburgh.'

On September 4th, 1647, there is also recorded—Sasine, on Charter under the Great Seal, in favour of the foresaid Countess of Eglintoun, of the lands and barony of Pennycuik, as described in vol. xxxiv., and 'also of all and whole the lands of Halhous and Leckbernaid [Halls and Leadburn], with manor place, mills, etc., thereof, lying in the parish of Pennycuik, which lands formerly pertained to James Keith of Benholme, brother-german to William Earl Marshall and the deceased Margaret Lindsay, his spouse, in liferent, and to Elizabeth Keith, their daughter, in fee, and also of all and whole the lands of Cuiking, with houses, etc., sometime occupied and possessed by the deceased Mr. John Preston of Pennycuik, President of the College of Justice, and afterwards by Sir John Preston of Airdrie, his son, and their tenants, and now by the said Lady Margaret Scot, Countess of Eglinton, and her tenants, which lands of Cuiking and others immediately foresaid, formerly pertained to Sir Andrew Flescheour [Fletcher] of Innerpeffer, Knight, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, and all which lands of Pennycuik and others respectively above mentioned, were resigned into the hands of His Majesty's Lords of the Treasury, in favour and for new infeftment of the said Lady Margaret Scot, Countess of Eglinton.'

This lady died in 1653, and on October 19th of that year Dame Jean Ross, Lady Innes, spouse to Sir Robert Innes, younger fiar of that Ilk, was served heir-portioner to her mother, the Countess of Eglintoun, in the lands and barony of Pennycuik, and the lands of Cuiken in the barony of Glencross, also to the lands of Cairnhill and Wester Ravensneuk, then in the barony of Roslin.

The same day Margaret Hepburn, only daughter procreate betwixt John Hepburn of Wauchton, and Mistress Mary Ross his spouse, was also infeft in equal halves of the lands above specified.

This Margaret Hepburn was grand-daughter of the Countess. Their Sasines are recorded on 31st March 1654. Prior to this date, however, Sasine proceeding upon bond and obligation is granted by Sir Robert Innes, elder of that Ilk, and Sir Robert Innes, younger thereof, as principals; Alexander Brodie of that Ilk, and Alexander Douglas of Spynie, as cautioners for them, and also by David Dunbar of Binnies, and other cautioners for them, whereby, for the sum of £6000 Scots, then borrowed and received by the said Sir Robert Innes, elder and younger, from John Clark, Merchant, burgess of Edinburgh, the said Sir Robert Innes, younger, bound him duly and lawfully to infeft and seise the said John Clark, his heirs and assignees whomsoever, in all and haill an annual rent of £360 out of the lands and barony of Pennycook, and lands of Hailles, with the whole parts, pendicles, and pertinents thereof, to be holden of the said Sir Robert Innes, younger, in free blench. This document is dated at Mylnetoun of Ross Innes, and Edinburgh the 29th September, 9th and 10th April and May 1653, and Sasine given on 10th February 1654. The above record is interesting as showing the first connection of the ancestor of the present owners with the barony of Pennycuik. His final acquisition took place shortly afterwards, when Jean Ross and Margaret Hepburn, who were infeft in equal halves of it, granted charter of the lands and barony to the said John Clerk, Merchant, burgess of Edinburgh, and he was infeft therein heritably and irredeemably, his Sasine being recorded on 3d June 1654.

THE FAMILY OF CLERK.

The first Clerk of Penicuik was the son of a merchant in Montrose. He was born in the year 1610, and in due course of time, it is believed, succeeded to the paternal business. Hoping no doubt to better his fortunes, and, finding the little east country town too small for his energies, he emigrated to Paris in the year 1634. Gifted with the national characteristics of perseverance and enterprise, Mr. Clerk managed to acquire a modest fortune in a comparatively short space of time. He returned to Scotland about the year 1646, and ultimately settled in Edinburgh, of which town he became a merchant burgess. As already mentioned, he acquired possession of Penicuik in 1654. Shortly afterwards he purchased the lands of Wrightshouses near Edinburgh, and at his death the latter estate became the property of his second son, James, who married Mary Ricard, a French lady. Mr. Clerk was a man of high character, and he speedily attained to a prominent position in the county. He was elected an elder of the Established Church in Penicuik on December 6, 1657, and ever continued to be a faithful and regular attender at Session and Heritors' meetings. On acquiring the Penicuik estate he found several mansions upon it, but he elected to live in the house of Newbigging, which he greatly improved. It was, indeed, at that time the finest house in the shire of Edinburgh, and, judging from the drawing of it, which still exists, appears to have been a more imposing edifice than that portion of the present Penicuik House which was erected upon its site, in 1771, by Sir James Clerk. Mr. Clerk married Mary, daughter of Sir William Gray of Pittendrum. With this lady he obtained several interesting relics of Mary, Queen of Scots, which are still carefully treasured in Penicuik House. These came to Mrs. Clerk through her

mother, Mary Gillies, a lady-in-waiting to the Queen, and were given to her by her mistress before her execution.

It is worthy of mention here that another valued relic of Queen Mary, one of her gold watches, is now in possession of an adjoining proprietor, Professor Fraser Tytler of Woodhouselee. It was bequeathed to him by the late Rev. Alexander Torrence of Glencorse, who inherited it from an ancestor.

Mr. John Clerk died in 1674, and was succeeded by his eldest son, John, who was created first Baronet of Penicuik by a royal patent from Charles II., dated 24th March 1679. This gentleman took a still more active and prominent part in public affairs than his father did. He became member for the county of Edinburgh in the Scottish Parliament, was Lieutenant-Colonel of a regiment commanded by the Earl of Lauderdale, and in every respect bore out the character given him by his distinguished son, 'as being a man of knowledge and application.'

In the year 1694 he extended the family possessions by the purchase of the lands and barony of Lasswade; a few years afterwards he also acquired the adjoining property of Uttershill, Loanstone, and Pomathorn. He was twice married, in the first instance to Elizabeth Henderson of Elvingston, grand-daughter of Sir William Drummond the poet. His second wife was the daughter of the Rev. James Kirkpatrick, parish minister of Carington. There is an oil-painting of this lady in the dining-room of Penicuik House; she has a pleasant face, with brown eyes, and very light brown hair.

From a desire to improve the amenities of his estate Sir John began about the year 1703 to make nurseries for the propagation of young trees, and thereafter he started a regular system of planting. One of the very first strips laid down was on the south side of the mansion-house, near to the Esk, covering the ground where

there still exists an old coal-hole, then known as Montesino's Cave. This is the same, I think, that in times more recent has often been erroneously described to inquiring strangers as an underground passage connected with the house. Several attempts were made by the baronet to discover coal upon the estate. He indeed incurred considerable expense in prospecting for it in the vicinity of the Mill of Penicuik, near what was then known as the great bridge. His son, in subsequent years, worked coal near to the old damhead, and followed the seams until they ran under the croft lands, but there he stopped, considering that any further development would result in more loss than profit.

Sir John died in 1722, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Baron Sir John Clerk. This distinguished man was born on the 8th of February 1676, and got his elementary education in the Penicuik parish school. In all likelihood it was Alexander Strachan, the village dominie, who instilled into the future baron's youthful mind his first conceptions of the mysteries of the three R's and the humanities. Clerk subsequently studied at the Glasgow University, and at the age of nineteen went to Leyden to be instructed in law. There he became the intimate friend and companion of the famous physician Herman Boerhaave, who at his death bequeathed to the baron that valuable collection of his books which is still to be seen in Penicuik House library. After leaving the University of Leyden the subject of our sketch travelled for a considerable time throughout Europe, and while at Rome began that careful study of Roman antiquities which, with his further researches, caused him ultimately to be looked upon as the then greatest living authority on that subject. Before he blossomed into an antiquary, Clerk, according to Sir Daniel Wilson, was a poet, 'and like the Laird of Monkbarns had reasons of his own for regarding somewhat cynically even the best of

womankind.' The verses which he sent to Miss Susanna Kennedy, the reigning beauty of those days, were, Sir Daniel avers, communicated by Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe to Dr. Robert Chambers, who printed them in his *Traditions of Edinburgh*, along with an account, not quite correct, of the wooing of the fickle beauty by the Earl of Eglintoune, and her consequent jilting of the Laird of Penicuik. As a further evidence of the Baron's poetical proclivities he is quoted as the author of the fine song, 'O merry may the maid be that marries the miller.' In 1702 he was elected Member of Parliament for Whithorn in Galloway, and this seat he held until the cessation of the Scottish Parliament in 1707. Prior to entering Parliament Clerk appeared to have got over his first disappointment in love, and was married to Lady Margaret Stewart, eldest daughter of Alexander, third Earl of Galloway. This lady, whom her husband describes as 'the best woman who ever breathed life,' died in 1701 in childbed of a son who was named after his father, whom he predeceased. Through the influence of Lady Margaret, cousin to the Duke of Queensberry, and his own friend, the Duke of Argyll, Clerk was appointed a Commissioner for the Union, and on the constitution of the Exchequer Court he was, on 13th May 1708, made one of the Barons of Exchequer. He afterwards married a daughter of Sir John Inglis of Cramond, by whom he had seven sons and six daughters. After succeeding to the Penicuik estates the Baron added largely to their amenities. He planted both sides of the Esk from a point above the mansion-house down to the present serpentine walk. He also began the system of enclosing parks by double dikes of turf planted with thorns and hardwood trees. In 1727 the Baron increased the paternal estates by the purchase of Lawhead and Marchwell from Mr. Bothwell of Glencross. In 1728 he made the present main approach to

Penicuik House, building the large bridge over the east burn. In 1730 he began to prepare the ground for the ultimate formation of the present beautiful high road, its site at that time being a large bog, most of it, indeed, peat moss. In the same year he also purchased from Mr. Sinclair of Roslin the superiority of the lands of Cairnhill and Ravensneuk, which long before had become part of the Penicuik property. In 1742 he made the antique cave called Hurley Cove, and took much delight in the pond and the arbour which he had erected near it. In 1751 he built the tower on the top of the hillock, then known as Knights-law, which he not only designed as an ornament to the county, but as a useful place for rearing doves for his family, the dovecot which he had near the house being much infested with hawks and gleds. Not on his own property only were the Baron's enlightened views on arboriculture given effect to, but on that of the neighbouring estate of Newhall also. It was then owned by his uncle, Sir David Forbes, who was much guided in his system of estate management by his distinguished relative. Perhaps, however, the department of knowledge in which Baron Clerk most excelled all others was that of antiquarian research. The famous Sandy Gordon, author of the *Itinerarium Septentrionale*, himself a man of the most versatile tastes and accomplishments in that and other subjects, described Sir John 'not only as a treasure of learning, but one of its chief supports in the country.' He further states that among all collections of Roman antiquities that of Baron Clerk claims the preference both as to numbers and curiosity. From the subject of this panegyric Gordon ever received the greatest sympathy and the most substantial aid. The old mansion-house of Penicuik during the Baron's reign was indeed the centre of hospitality and entertainment to many of the best known men of letters of the time. Allan Ramsay was a frequent

guest, and his connection with the place is not only perpetuated by his portraits, which hang in the present house, but by the substantial stone obelisk at Ravensneuk, erected to his memory by Sir James Clerk in 1759. Aikman the painter, Gay the poet, William Clerk, the Baron's brother, the poetical correspondent of Dr. Pennycuik,¹ Duncan Forbes of Culloden, and many others,² were constant and valued guests. Among these visitors there is little doubt but that there would also be the Baron's distinguished relative, Dr. John Clerk, grandson of the first Baronet. This well-known man occupied the very highest position as a physician, amongst the many important offices which he held not the least eminent being that of President of the Royal College of Physicians. He purchased the estate of Listonshiels, in Midlothian, and founded the family of the Clerks of Listonshiels. The traditions and reminiscences of those times were most familiar to Sir Walter Scott, who himself in after days was not an unfrequent visitor in the new house of Penicuik. Not a few of the great novelist's characters were taken from those who formerly met around the Baron's social board. According to Sir Daniel Wilson there can be but little doubt that Scott had Gordon himself and his experiences in view when he drew the inimitable portraiture of Jonathan Oldbuck. Above all, says Wilson, was that crowning achievement involved in the trenching of the Kaim of Kinprunes, a genuine legend of the Penicuik family, derived

¹ See p. 171.

² Among these may be noted Dr. Richard Pococke, Bishop of Meath, who thus describes his visit to Baron Clerk in 1747, in a letter to his sister, dated Sept. 20, 1760:—'Near this place [Roslin] I dined with the late Baron Clark, a great antiquarian, at his seat of Pennytime [*sic*], situated in a bottom on this river, a sweet spot, and here he had many valuable antiquities, among them a statue of the goddess Brigantæ, a deity of the Brigantes, supposed to be the Picts. It is four feet high, in a kind of Toga with a Mural Crown, a head in relief on the breast, with a spear in the right hand and a globe in the left.'

from William Clerk of Eldin, the grandson of the Baron. On one occasion, when visiting his grandfather at Dumcrieff, in Dumfriesshire, he was present when the old baronet took some virtuoso to see a supposed Roman camp, and on his exclaiming at a particular spot, 'This I take to have been the Prætorium,' a herdsman who stood by responded, 'Prætorium here or Prætorium there, I made it wi' a flaughter spade.'

Baron Sir John Clerk died at Penicuik on 4th October 1755, and was succeeded in the title and estates by his son James, who married Elizabeth, daughter of the Reverend John Cleghorn.

During his long life the Baron had kept voluminous diaries, and from these he compiled a History of his life. These most interesting manuscripts have been recently placed at the disposal of the Scottish History Society by the present Baronet, Sir George D. Clerk, and their appearance in book form is looked forward to with much interest, for it is understood they give vivid pictures not only of his own life and experiences, but of the manners and public occurrences of the times.

Sir James Clerk, prior to the death of his father, had resided for long periods in Italy, where his fine taste for art was strongly developed. Shortly after he came into the property the old house of Newbigging was demolished, and near to its site he erected, from plans of his own, the centre building of the present Penicuik House. The rich mural decorations by Runciman referred to in another chapter give evidence of his taste as well as of his classic interest in the writings of the old Scottish Bard, and his desire to illustrate and perpetuate the scenes depicted there. Mr. Jackson states, in his little pamphlet on Penicuik, that the family coat-of-arms, and the ornamental vases on the top of the house, were all carved by his own hands. Sir James had been

much encouraged and assisted in his beneficent undertakings by his brother, Mr. John Clerk of Eldin. This latter able and worthy man devoted much of his time and talents to the study of the theory and practice of naval tactics. He published an essay on this subject in 1782, which attracted considerable attention. It was said, indeed, that his plan for breaking the enemy's line was adopted by Rodney in his decisive victory over the French under De Grasse in the West Indian seas, and that the carrying out of the same principles enabled Nelson to win his most famous battles. It is interesting to recall the well-known fact that Mr. Clerk had few opportunities of becoming practically acquainted with seamanship, and that his plans were carried out and perfected by means of the little flotillas he engaged in mimic warfare upon the High Pond at Penicuik.

I can only allude very shortly to Mr. Clerk's son, Lord Eldin, famous both as advocate and judge. He was a man of varied accomplishments, eccentric manners, and remarkable for his ready humour and never-failing readiness and fertility of resource. Carlyle, in his *Reminiscences*, relates that the only figure he remembered in the law courts, when he and Tom Smail visited them that afternoon, after their weary tramp of nearly one hundred miles from Ecclefechan, was that of John Clerk. He says that the grim, strong countenance, with its black, far-projecting brows and look of great sagacity, fixed itself indelibly upon his memory. John Clerk, Lord Eldin, lent lustre to the name he bore, and the family record would not have been complete without an allusion to him.

Sir James, the third Baronet, died without issue in 1782, and was succeeded by his brother George, who had added to his own the surname of Maxwell on marrying his cousin, Dorothea Maxwell, the heiress of Middlebie, in Dumfriesshire.

Sir George Clerk-Maxwell was, I believe, born at Edinburgh. He was ever deeply interested in promoting the commerce and industries of his native land. He was appointed King's Remembrancer in the Exchequer, and also Commissioner of the Customs of Scotland. Sir George only lived for a very short period to enjoy his inheritance. His death took place in 1784, and he was succeeded by his eldest son John, who married Mary, daughter of Mr. Dacre of Kirklington, in Cumberland. Sir John was a good landlord, and did much toward improving the amenities of his estate. He was no doubt much indebted to the wise help and counsel of his wife, who was a woman of excellent abilities, and of great shrewdness and force of character. Sir Walter Scott was not infrequently a visitor at Penicuik House in those days. In his autobiography he relates the delight he experienced, when a young man, in looking at the beautiful pictures on its walls, and the lovely scenery surrounding it; while the flattering hospitality of the Baronet and his lady, upon one occasion at least, induced him to make a stay so long that it caused anxiety and alarm in his worthy father's household, who knew not, until his return, where the truant had been. Old Lady Sinclair of Dunbeath, who died not so very long ago, used to speak highly of the gallantry and worth of the Penicuik Baronet. Upon one occasion, in her young days, when some distance from home, her linkmen had made off, leaving upon the ground the sedan-chair in which she sat. She was carried safe to her destination, however, and found on her arrival there that Sir John Clerk and his friend the Duke of Argyll had been her carriers. They had been passing at the time, and, knowing by sight the lady who was left in this predicament, they hurried to the rescue. She used often to recall the incident; and in connection with it, and the times in which it occurred, she freely ex-

pressed her opinion that gentlemen were gentlemen in those days, and that Edinburgh was then the capital of Scotland, and not as it is now, only a halfway house to the Highlands.

After Sir John's death, in 1798, his widow removed to Edinburgh, and occupied the house No. 100 Princes Street. Dean Ramsay, to whom she was well known, says that her figure, as she used to walk about, was as familiar to the inhabitants as the steeple of St. Giles. A story of her early years is well worth recording. She was born in her father's house in Cumberland, in 1745—that memorable year when the Highland army was on its march through the north of England. While her mother was still confined to bed a party of the caterans, under a chieftain of the Macdonald clan, came to the house. On hearing the circumstances of the case he not only chivalrously prevented his men from levying any contribution, but took from his bonnet his own white rose or cockade and pinned it to the infant's breast. This he did to protect the household from any trouble should other parties of the Highlanders pass that way. This incident caused Lady Clerk to be known thereafter as the White Rose of Scotland. In his first edition of *Scottish Life and Character* Ramsay tells several stories about her. The late Lord Stowell had, in his young days, been a near neighbour of Miss Dacre's, and an attachment had sprung up between them. The entire want of means precluded all hope of marriage. But when, some years afterwards, William Scott attained to a measure of success in that profession of which he became so distinguished an ornament, he wrote to his first love a short and business-like offer of marriage. Her reply was quite as much to the point. It was as follows :—"DEAR WILLIE SCOTT,—I should have been glad to be your wife, but on Tuesday next I am to be married to Captain John Clerk, and am your affectionate MOLLY DACRE." Notwithstanding this incident Lady Clerk kept

up a constant intercourse with him and his distinguished brother, Lord Chancellor Eldon, to the end of her life.

Sir John Clerk, her husband, was followed by his nephew, the Right Honourable Sir George Clerk, the sixth Baronet. Being only about eleven years of age when he succeeded to the title and estates, he was under curators until he attained his majority; and to these gentlemen is to be traced the real beginning of the general and substantial improvements which were made upon nearly every farm on the property. Sir George also continued during his long life to follow out this enlightened policy. This distinguished man was the son of James Clerk, third son of the fourth Baronet, by Janet, daughter of George Irving, Esquire of Newton. He was born in 1787, and married, in 1810, Maria Anne Law, the daughter of Ewan Law, and niece of the first Lord Ellenborough. In early life Sir George gave indications of his desire to identify himself with public matters. Accordingly, when a vacancy occurred in the representation of Midlothian by the death of Viscount Melville in 1811, he presented himself as a candidate, and, with the approval of the Dundases, he was duly elected. The representation of the metropolitan county had been so long enjoyed by various members of the powerful family of Dundas as to make it seem to them almost a hereditary seat. Consequently, the Penicuik Baronet was looked upon at the time, both at Melville and Arniston, simply as a convenient substitute, whose duty it would be to vacate the position whenever the family required it. Sir George was one of those who offended his party by ratting, or continuing in office under Mr. Canning, for whose character and abilities he had a high admiration. This was the occasion of great offence to his political patrons, and they meditated turning him out at the next election. Sir George had, however, shown

himself possessed of abilities of a high order, and was not one whose services could be lightly dispensed with. Acting, therefore, under the sensible advice of the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Hopetoun, and others, Mr. Dundas agreed to permit him to retain his seat.

The political condition of Scotland at this time was lamentable—the people being utterly excluded from any share in the choice of their representatives. The narrow limits within which the franchise was confined—for in the latter part of last century there were less than one hundred voters in Midlothian—threw immense power into the hands of an influential family like that of Arniston. For many long years the people had fought the battle of reform, and finally, in 1832, a ministry pledged to carry out reforming principles, with Earl Grey as Prime Minister, was appointed. Having, however, sustained a defeat, Lord Grey appealed to the country, and a new Parliament was returned, a majority of whose members were fully committed to support the great measure which now filled the minds of the British people. Sir George Clerk's attitude on this question cost him his seat for Midlothian. He was opposed by Sir John Dalrymple. The fight was a long and bitter one, causing great excitement in Penicuik parish. The polling took place at Edinburgh, Dalkeith, and Midcalder, and occupied two days. The result showed that Sir John Dalrymple had a majority of sixty-five votes.

Sir George remained without a seat in Parliament until 1835, when Sir Robert Peel went to the country on the principles of reform announced in his Tamworth manifesto. At this election Sir George again stood for Midlothian, and was opposed by Mr. William Gibson-Craig. The latter lost by thirty-one votes, and the Penicuik Baronet was once more returned as member for his native county. Parliament dissolved on 17th July 1837, owing to

the death of William IV., and upon this occasion Mr. Gibson-Craig defeated Sir George by forty-two votes. The latter then obtained a seat for Stamford, which he represented from 1838 to 1847. He was afterwards for several years member for the constituency of Dover.

During his Parliamentary career Sir George held many important offices of State. With a short interval he was Lord of the Admiralty from 1819 to 1830; Secretary of the Treasury from November 1834 to April 1835; and again from September 1841 to February 1845. He became Master of the Mint, and Vice-President of the Board of Trade in February 1845, and continued so until July 1846. Sir George was highly respected by all classes in the parish of Penicuik. He was a keen curler, and has been known to travel from London to take his place in his rink in local matches. He had a dignified bearing, but was ever accessible and courteous to all. While pleased that his tenants and feuars should record their votes for himself or his party at elections, he did not deny to any one the right of his political convictions. In illustration of this a story was often told by a well-known citizen, the late Mr. John Wilson, baker. Mr. Wilson had given his vote against Sir George in 1837, and when he appeared upon the curling-pond within the policies for the first time afterwards it was with considerable trepidation. He need not have done so, for, on stepping upon the ice, he was comforted and delighted by hearing the Baronet exclaim, 'Here comes John Wilson, an honest man. I'll have him on my side.'

Sir George took a hearty personal interest in the affairs of his tenantry. He patiently listened to their complaints, and had a marvellous knack of diagnosing at once whether these were well founded or the reverse. His practical knowledge of agriculture was often helpful to them, and was always made frankly and freely

available. Sir George was an elder in the Established Church, and was a regular attender upon ordinances. Many of my readers will remember his stately figure, so often to be seen in the front seat of the gallery facing the pulpit, and his devout and reverent bearing. One of his last appearances in public was at the funeral of his wife in September 1866. None who witnessed it will readily forget the sight of the old Baronet upon that occasion, as he walked behind the coffin holding by the black tape attached to it. The once firm step was feeble, and the once erect figure bending under the load of years,

‘ Even in the downfall of his mellow years
When nature brought him to the door of death.’

That door was not long in opening for him, for he passed away at a ripe old age on 23d December 1867.

Sir George had a large family of sons and daughters. While in residence at Penicuik the ladies ever took a kindly interest in the place and its people, and were much beloved. Several of his sons have risen to positions of eminence in the British Army, while his third son, Mr. John Clerk, Q.C., attained to prominence at the English Bar, and has now retired from practice full of years and honours. He is the best known in Penicuik parish of all the members of the family of the late Sir George. Acting for a time as curator to his nephew, the present Baronet, he was during that period actively engaged in administering the affairs of the Penicuik property, and his continuous and hearty interest in the parish and in its old residents is known and appreciated by all.

Sir George was succeeded in the title and estates by his eldest son, Sir James Clerk. This gentleman was not well known in our parish, although, while residing at Penicuik House, he always showed his readiness to co-operate in any movement tending towards the good of the place and its people. In early life he

held a commission in the army, and when the volunteer movement sprung into existence about the year 1859, he threw himself with hearty enthusiasm into the work of organising a local corps. He was appointed Captain Commandant of the two Penicuik Companies, and was in command of them at the famous review held in the Queen's Park, Edinburgh, on 7th August 1860, when the Queen herself was present to witness the loyalty and patriotism of her citizen soldiers. Sir James did not live long enough after succeeding to the Penicuik property to have any opportunity of actively administering its affairs. His continuous ill-health, indeed, unfitted him in his latter years for any participation in public matters. He was married to Jane, daughter of Mr. Mercer Henderson of Fordell, by whom he had a family of one son and three daughters. Sir James died on 17th November 1870 at Clifton, and was succeeded by his son, Sir George Douglas Clerk, the present Baronet. Sir George is married to Aymée, daughter of the late Sir Robert Napier of Milliken Park, Renfrewshire, and has one son. For some years he held a commission in the Life Guards, and he is now Colonel of the Sixth Volunteer Battalion the Royal Scots. Sir George Clerk has not for some time been resident at Penicuik, but the Mansion-house is occupied by the Dowager Lady Clerk and her two unmarried daughters. These benevolent and highly esteemed ladies take an active and practical interest in the welfare of the district. Many homes in our village are made brighter, and the burdens of their owners made lighter, by the kindly ministrations of the ladies of the Manor.

LOGANHOUSE ESTATE AND ITS OWNERS.

The estate of Loganhouse, now the property of Mr. Charles William Cowan, embraces within its area a large portion of the

hill land of the parish, and in extent measures about 5677 acres. From very early times, down to nearly the end of the seventeenth century, it was owned by the powerful family of St. Clair of Roslin. The exact date of its acquisition by them cannot now be ascertained. The well-known story of King Robert the Bruce staking the lands of Loganhouse, Kirton, and Earncraig against the head of his good Knight, William St. Clair, at the hunt of the white deer, and the gaining of them by the latter in free forestry, owing to the swiftness of his two dogs, Help and Hold, must, I fear, be given up as legendary. The whole barony of Pentland and Pentland Moor was given by King Malcolm Canmore to Sir Henry St. Clair for his bravery in fighting against the English invaders. The probability is therefore that the Loganhouse lands would, through this gift, come into possession of the family at that early period. Long afterwards, in a charter dated at Roslin, Henry St. Clair, Earl of Orkney, granted to his brother-german, John de St Clair, and his heirs, the lands of Sunnellishope, Loganhouse, and these pertinents *lying in the moor of Pentland*. The phraseology of many other charters would also incline one to believe that these lands were included in the original grant by King Malcolm. The history of the successive St. Clairs who owned the property is of exceeding interest, but as it is very fully set forth in the memorials of that family, written by their relative and historian, Father Hay,¹ it is needless to relate it in these pages. Some of them attained to great wealth and distinction, notably Prince Henry St. Clair, who had upwards of twenty-five titles. In his house he was served in gold and silver vessels, having Lord Dirleton as the master of his household, Lord Borthwick as his cup-bearer, and Lord Fleming as his carver. His wife had serving her seventy-five gentlewomen, where-

¹ *Genealogie of the Sinclares of Rosslyn*. Edinburgh, 4to, 1835.

of fifty-three were the daughters of noblemen, together with two hundred riding gentlemen, who accompanied her on all her journeys. In course of time, however, the fortunes of the St. Clairs waxed less bright, and portions of their large estates were alienated. In Father Hay's history I find allusion to a charter of certain lands granted on 23d August 1680, in favour of Mr. Alexander Gibson, by James St. Clair, brother-german to John St. Clair, the superior thereof. These in all likelihood referred to the portion of the Pentland estate of which I am writing, for in the following year charter and infeftment is granted to this Mr. Alexander Gibson of the lands of Kirton and Loganhouse, with tower and fortalice of the same. The property apparently remained in possession of this family for about a hundred years. On 24th August 1782 William Ferguson of Raith was seised in the lands of Synelhope, Earncraig, Loganhouse, and Kirkton. In 1791, along with his son Robert Ferguson, he was again seised in liferent and fee respectively of the before-mentioned lands and teinds in the parish of Pennycuik. On 18th September 1813 Robert Ferguson of Raith, and Lieutenant-General Ronald Crawford Ferguson, his brother, were seised in liferent and fee respectively in the following parts of the land and barony of Pentland, viz., Easter and Wester Synelhope, Earncraig, Loganhouse, and Kirton. About eighteen years afterwards the estate again changed owners. On 11th January 1831 William Robertson was seised in the lands and teinds (under exceptions) on disposition by Parliamentary trustee for selling parts of the entailed estate of Raith and others, and also trustees of Robert Ferguson of Raith, with his consent, 13th November 1830. Mr. Robertson held possession of the property for about twenty-two years, and then sold it to the late Mr. Charles Cowan, member of Parliament for the city of Edinburgh, for the sum of £31,000 sterling. At the death of this much-

lamented gentleman in 1889, his eldest son, Mr. Charles W. Cowan of Valleyfield House, chief magistrate of Penicuik, succeeded to the ownership.

THE ESTATE OF NEWHALL AND ITS OWNERS.

The estate of Newhall now includes Spittal and Carlops, which in former times were separate properties. It is very generally believed that prior to the thirteenth century an abbey or monastery, belonging to the Cistercian monks, occupied the site of the mansion-house, which was situated then, as now, on the north bank of the river Esk, five miles south-west from Penicuik.

The association of these ecclesiastics with the neighbourhood still lingers in the names of various places; such as, Monksburn, Monksrig, Monkshaugh, and the Monks' road, which crosses the hills westwards. The foundation of these monastic establishments was invariably followed by the erection near them of smaller houses called hospitals, which were used as homes for the sick, the aged and infirm poor, or for orphan children. The site of one of these is marked, and the name perpetuated by the farm-house of Spittal. This hospital, it is said, continued undissolved until about Reformation times; prior to that period the white-robed figures of the monks, with their black scapular and hood and girdle of black wool, proceeding upon their missions of mercy, would be a familiar sight to the inhabitants of our parish. The estate of Spittal, now embraced in the Newhall property, formerly belonged to a family of the name of Oswald. Frequent allusions occur in the Kirk-session records to the successive lairds in their capacity of heritors. The last proprietor of that name was one of the keenest and most active of the many Jacobite gentlemen in Peeblesshire. He kept up a long and close correspondence with

the Pretender, frequently remitting to him considerable sums of money. He appears to have been a man of singular social qualities. His dining-room table was made of marble, and it was his frequent custom to gather many of his neighbours and friends, especially sympathisers with the Stuart cause, around it to partake of his hospitality. On the table he caused a suitable inscription to be cut, so that it might be used as a monument over his grave. It was required for this purpose sooner than its owner anticipated, for he was accidentally shot by his servant on November 28, 1726, at Slipperfield loch, whither they had gone in quest of wild duck. His sorrowing widow piously carried out his wishes, and until about fifty years ago his tombstone was an object of curiosity and interest to those who visited Linton churchyard. It subsequently disappeared, and its after history is unknown to me. There is no authentic record as to how or when the lands of Newhall were alienated from the monks. Early in the year 1400 they were finally granted by King Robert III. to one Laurence Creichtoune, and they continued in possession of his descendants until the beginning of the seventeenth century. A story is told, both in prose and verse, of an unfortunate event which took place during the ownership of one of the first of the name. The heritable jurisdiction attached to the lands was that of pit and gallows, which meant that the owner had power of life and death over that class of his tenants or bondsmen, who by law were the absolute property of the lord of the soil. In the vicinity of the castle there lived a poor widow whose husband had been a farmer or labourer on the estate. She had an only son who was a notorious reprobate. Whatever mischief was done in the neighbourhood could generally be traced to him. He was punished over and over again, but without producing any good result. Finally he was caught one day plundering a favourite

cherry-tree and carried before the laird, who planned a method of punishment which he thought would effectually cure him of his pilfering habits. Sending for the chaplain, he was instructed to prepare the culprit for death. The gardener was then ordered to carry him to the tree he had been seized upon, and there hang him; but at the same time privately instructed to cut him down the instant he was turned over. Anxiety for the security of his garden, and his grudge against him on account of past offences, tempted the gardener to allow the boy to remain some time suspended, and on slacking the rope life was found to be extinct. The mother arriving at the time to plead for her son met the servants bringing out his dead body. Concluding rashly that he had been put to death by their master's orders, she vented her grief in pouring curses on his head, praying that none of the name of Creichtoune might ever have a son to inherit the estate. Though free from blame, the event made a deep impression upon the proprietor, that he went on a pilgrimage to Rome to obtain absolution and consolation.

I find frequent allusions in the Privy Council records, Acts of Scottish Parliament, and elsewhere, to the successive Creichtounes of Newhall; but space forbids me recording many of them. They appear to have been a family of some importance, and took their full share of the duties incumbent upon men in their position in the county. During those troublous times in our country's history, when Queen Mary was held prisoner in England, Alexander Creichtoune of Newhall appears to have been one of her active supporters. At the time of the bombardment of Edinburgh Castle by the young king's supporters, Harry Creichtoune, the laird's son, was deputed by Ker of Fernihurst, Provost of Edinburgh, to convey his wife away from the capital to his country house for safety. On their way they were met

by the Laird of Carmichael, an active member of the Regent's party, who had with him nine or ten horsemen. He at once charged the Castle men, who numbered fourteen or fifteen, and put them to flight, no doubt much to the alarm of their fair mistress. Creichtoune seeing so few pursuing wheeled his men and charged in turn. This they continued to do until all their spears were broken; afterwards they fought on foot with their swords, though they were all well-nigh exhausted, continuing meanwhile to abuse each other as traitors. Carmichael at this stage appears to have had the worst of it; but two men coming up, who chanced to be of the king's party, rushed to his assistance, crying out, 'Fie, lay upon the traitors,' and, suiting their action to their words, laid about them with such vigour, that Creichtoune and several of his troopers were severely wounded and afterwards taken prisoners. In the years that followed no events worthy of chronicle occurred in the history of this family.

About the year 1646 they sold the estate to Dr. Alexander Pennycuick, a lineal descendant and representative of the Penycukes of that Ilk. This gentleman had seen service in the Swedish wars, and was subsequently employed as surgeon-general to the auxiliary Scots army sent to England in 1644. Beginning life in the time of James VI. he lived to the great age of ninety, and finished his career under the reign of William and Mary. Dr. Chambers and other authorities say he had only two sons, Alexander and James. They must be in error in this statement, as I find in Fountainhall's *Decisions* a case quoted which was before the Court on 20th January 1709, in which proof was led to show that Captain Robert Pennycuick of the 'St. Andrew,'—that went to our Darien colony in 1700, made a will wherein he left all his moveable goods to Captain Stephen Pennycuick, his brother, and failing him, to Campbell and Edgar, his nieces.

Stephen having predeceased the testator, Dr. Alexander Pennycuick of Romanno, his only surviving brother, raises a reduction of the testament as depriving him of his *jus sanguinis* as nearest of kin. This distinctly shows that the family of the nonogenarian had been larger than Dr. Chambers and others supposed. Alexander Pennycuick was the famous author, poet, and physician, who succeeded his father in the ownership of the Newhall property, and who, in right of his wife, Margaret Murray, also acquired the estate of Romanno in Peeblesshire. He was born at Newhall in 1652. Like his father he was educated in the medical profession, which he practised in the district surrounding the paternal estate. He was, indeed, the only 'practitioner' whose services were available at that time for our predecessors in this parish. Dr. Pennycuick also acted as surgeon to the Tweeddale troop of horse, which was occasionally employed by Dalzell and Claverhouse to hunt up the poor Covenanters. He was a man of genial and amiable temperament, taking life very easily, often visiting the thatched hostel at Cant Walls, and spending the hours there in carousals with comrades likeminded with himself. His management of his financial affairs was, however, far from satisfactory; and in the later years of his life his circumstances were somewhat embarrassed. He had two daughters, the elder of whom married Mr. Oliphant of Lanton in 1702. She received Newhall from her father as her dowry. Margaret, the younger daughter, wedded John Farquharson of Aboyne; and to them was given the reversion of the lands of Romanno, burdened with a liferent out of the property for Dr. Pennycuick's behoof. Mr. Oliphant, it is said, was considerably in debt at the time of his marriage; and he sold Newhall in the year following that event to Mr. (afterwards Sir) David Forbes, who was married to Catherine Clerk, sister of Sir John Clerk of Penicuik. This

gentleman greatly improved and enlarged the property, and it devolved at his death upon his eldest son, Mr. John Forbes, a member of the Faculty of Advocates, and for some time a Depute to his distinguished relative, Duncan Forbes of Culloden, when the latter was appointed King's Advocate. At this time the mansion-house or castle was much in the condition in which its former owners, the Creichtounes, had left it. It covered the whole breadth of the point on which the modern house now stands. The floors were arched below, and the walls of immense thickness, with slits for defence cut on every side,—some of the old vaults were indeed frequently used during the last century for confining refractory colliers, who were employed in the different mines upon the estate. Mr. Forbes pulled down most of the old castle, and erected the present house in its stead, in imitation, it is said, of the house of Culloden. It was subsequently enlarged by Mr. Robert Brown in 1795 from designs which he had himself prepared. In Mr. Forbes's time, Newhall was a popular resort of many of the most famous literary men of the day, each one of them well fitted to contribute to that feast of reason and that flow of soul so much appreciated by their benevolent and hospitable entertainer. Not the least celebrated of these visitors was Allan Ramsay, the Scottish poet, author of *The Gentle Shepherd*, published in 1725. This excellent poem, containing so faithful a transcript of character and of the manners and customs of a past generation in our neighbourhood, is not so well known as it should be by the younger generation of Penicuik townspeople. Many years ago frequent recitals of the play took place in the old Friendly Society's Hall, and in more modern times the histrionic gifts of several well-known citizens were on more than one occasion exercised in the Town Hall in giving representations of the characters in the poems. Those who witnessed James Skinner

as *Sir William Worthy*, James Cuthbertson as *Bauldy*, Robert Menzies as *Patie*, and William Stewart as *Mause*, will not readily forget the amusement and pleasure they experienced upon those occasions.

There can be little doubt that Ramsay found both the characters and the scenery for his play at Newhall. A greater than Ramsay made known to his countrymen the beauties of the 'brown heath and shaggy wood,' 'the mountain and the flood' of our Scottish Highlands; but the older poet equally gave immortality to the spot

'Where a' the sweets o' spring and summer grow.'

By the kindness of the present proprietor free access is given on certain days in the week to his grounds, and hardly one of these ever passes by in the summer-time when there are not heard from that

'Flourie howm between twa verdant braes'

the happy shouts of old and young alike, while they tread a measure on the green beside the

'Trotting burnie wimpling through the ground.'

In May 1734 Mr. John Forbes conveyed the estate of Newhall to Duncan Forbes of Culloden and others as trustees for his children. These gentlemen sold it to Mr. Robert Fisher of Sandi-foord, and he had conveyance of it accordingly in July 1742. In May 1757 it was made over by him to trustees for his creditors. After administering the estate for two years it was sold by them to Mr. John Young, Writer in Edinburgh, his conveyance being completed in April 1759. At his death he was succeeded in the property by his cousin and heir, Mr. Andrew Young of Castle Yards, who, in June 1767, one month after his acquisition of it, sold it to Mr. William Hay. In January 1771 this gentleman

made conveyance of the estate to his trustee, Mr. David Russell, Accountant, Edinburgh. In January 1783, Mr. Russell sold it to Mr. Robert Brown, Advocate, ancestor of the present proprietor. Mr. Brown was a gentleman of considerable literary attainments. He did much to improve the amenities of his estate. With commendable enterprise he built the village of Carlops for the accommodation of those whom he induced to settle down there and engage in the cotton-weaving industry. He was rewarded by seeing it become exceedingly prosperous; and this prosperity was shared in by the lint-mill at Marfield, the fulling-mill at Monkshaugh, the flax-mill down between Craigy Bield and the Harbour Craig, and the carding-mill above the bridge, now used as a meal-mill.

The application, however, of the all-conquering power of steam to the weaving industry produced disastrous effects upon the industries at Carlops. It is now only known as the resort of summer visitors, who seek health and pleasure in its invigorating hill air. Mr. Brown, at his death in July 1833, was succeeded by his eldest son, Hugh Horatio Brown. This gentleman, who was much esteemed in the district, died in 1866; and conveyance of the estate was made in the month of October of that year to his eldest son and heir, Horatio F. Brown, present proprietor. This much-respected gentleman lives at present in Italy, and is an author of considerable repute.

PENICUIK HERITORS AND BAVELAW.

The history of the Bavelaw lands, the possession of which carries with it the right of heritorship in Penicuik parish, cannot possess much interest to local readers. The old castle and its pertinents lie on the other side of the hills, and there is now little communication between the folks who live in that neighbourhood

and those in the more eastward part of the parish. These Annals would not, however, be complete without some record of an estate which yields from one source and another the very respectable rent-roll of £744, 12s. 6d.

The ancient proprietors of Bavelaw or Baveley were the Brades. About the year 1230 Henry de Brade, Knight, who was sheriff of Edinburgh during the reign of William the Lion, granted to the monks of Holyrood the tithes of all his moorland and of his land of Baveley, which he held of the king, in the latter's moor of Penteland, and that towards the maintenance of worship in the chapel of Saint Katterine in Penteland. This grant was confirmed by Pope Gregory ix. in the tenth year of his episcopate.

On 9th October 1381 King Robert II. confirmed a grant of the lands of Bavillay, lying in the sheriffdom of Edinburgh, which William de Fairley of Brade made to John de Fairley, his son, and Elene, natural daughter of Sir Henry de Douglas, Knight.

On 8th January 1426-7 Henry Forestar and Helen, daughter of John de Farle of Brade, had, on the resignation of the latter, crown charter of the lands, to be held by them, or the longest liver of them, or by the heirs lawfully begotten of their bodies, whom failing, by the said John de Farle and his lawful heirs in fee. There is no further notice of the lands of Bavillay in the Register of the Great Seal till we come to the year 1515. On 14th October of that year they were granted to Robert Bertoun, dwelling in Leith, and Elizabeth Craufurde, his spouse. The charter narrates that the lands had belonged to the deceased Sir John Forrestar of Niddry, Knight, and were held *ward* of the king, and had been *recognosced* in the hands of King James IV. on account of the alienation of the greater part of them without consent obtained. Robert Bertoun had, with the consent of Sir

John Forrester, compounded with the king's treasurer for his being infest in the lands, and made a payment of £200.

The Bavillawis are next found in the hands of the Mowbrays of Barnbougall. On 18th July 1549 the Crown granted to Robert Mowbray of Barnbougall and Barbara Mowbray, his wife, and to Archibald Mowbray, their son, the lands of both the Bavalawis, in the sheriffdom of Edinburgh. On 2d February 1557-8 Archibald Mowbray sold the lands to his brother-german, John Mowbray, and the sale was confirmed by charter from the Crown on 26th August 1565. John Mowbray held the property for fifteen years, and then sold it to George Dundas of that Ilk. The charter of sale was confirmed by James vi. at Stirling Castle, 22d May 1580. The next entry I find regarding Bavelaw is on 12th June 1621. It records that William, Lord Blantyre, was served heir to Walter, Lord Blantyre, his father, to these lands. They had not, however, been held very long by this family, for in the Edinburgh Retours it is stated that Mr. Laurence Scott of Bavillaw was, on 13th May 1670, served heir-male to Mr. Laurence Scott, his father, of both the Bavillaws, with liberty of common pasture of the moor of Balerno. This younger Laurence figures for a long period in the books of the Dalkeith Presbytery, and in the Penicuik Session records, as a contumacious resister of their discipline. For some acts of immorality he was again and again cited to appear before them and submit to dealing, but without any response on his part. Finally, a compromise appears to have been arrived at; for, instead of expiating his offence by submitting to rebuke before the congregation on the Sabbath-day, a fine to the poor was substituted. The entry in the Session records is as follows: '*July 28th, 1679.*—Received from Bavelaw the sum of £28, 8s. penalty for his sins, he having before this, for a considerable time, defied both Presbytery and Session.'

On 15th April 1690 Charles Scott, son of Laurence Scott of Bavillaw, was served heir to William Scott of Bavillaw, Advocate, his brother-german, in the lands and barony of Bavillaw, with liberty of common pasture in the wood of Balerno, lying in the parish of Penicuik.

Bavelaw continued in possession of the Scotts, and the castle was occupied by them, until nearly the close of the eighteenth century. The lands were then acquired by Mr. David Johnston of Lathrisk, and they still remain the property of his descendant, Mr. George Johnston.

CHAPTER IX.

WITCHCRAFT—GAMES—FOLK-LORE.

IT is difficult for us, in the days in which we now live, to realise the fact that at one time, not only in our own parish, but throughout Scotland, belief in witchcraft was universal. It is still more difficult to believe that numbers of wretched creatures of both sexes were accused of this imaginary crime and put to death, in many cases with cruel tortures. By an Act passed in the ninth Parliament of Queen Mary, it was declared 'that witches, or consulters with witches,' should be punished with death. For many years afterwards, as a consequence of this enactment, every effort appears to have been made to hunt out and bring to their doom those unfortunates who believed themselves, or were believed by others, to be possessed of supernatural powers through the influence of Satanic agency. In many places the parochial clergymen were the most active instruments in bringing suspected sorcerers to justice, and it is possible that, in the cases I am about to quote, the Rev. Mr. French of Penicuik was the informer, both to the civil power and to his brethren of the Dalkeith Presbytery, of the existence of sundry dangerous characters in his own parish. The preliminary proceedings cannot now be ascertained, but the proof must have been very strong, for a short shrift was given to the poor unfor-

tainates so denounced. A minute of Presbytery, of 17th September 1629, states that the Court appointed the Revs. James Porteous, John Knox, and Thomas Couplan to be present in Penicuik at the execution of Christian Thomson, Isobel Dryburgh, and Margaret Smail, arraigned for witchcraft.

In this short and abrupt way is a matter involving the death of three of their fellow-creatures thus disposed of by the Fathers and Brethren of those days. Sad to think that such a scene should have been witnessed in our parish, and that men who by their position and education ought to have been the first to disabuse the minds of the people of such absurd delusions, should have been the most active in aiding and abetting such horrid cruelties. Nor does this complete the dismal story, for at another meeting of Presbytery, held on 18th December of the same year, a deputation, who had again visited Penicuik, report that they had personally superintended the burning of Janet Bishop, Janet Pennycuik, and Margaret Endherson, who had been condemned to death for the same crime. Local tradition fixes upon two different sites as the ground upon which these fearful scenes were enacted. It is more than likely, however, that it was in the churchyard that the stakes were erected, and the coals, the heather, and the gunpowder built round them to do their fatal work of reducing to ashes the quivering bodies of these poor victims.

Mr. John Clerk, the first laird of Penicuik of that surname, was one of those gentlemen whose services were in frequent request by the Privy Council as one of the Commissioners, or 'understanding gentlemen,' who examined and tried those who were accused of witchcraft in Mid-Lothian. His connection with the parish causes me to introduce here a curious case which he, along with others, had to try in connection with this matter. Seven

women in Loanhead had been delated as witches by two of their own sex, who were burnt at Salt Preston for this crime. Several of those seven, had they been permitted, were ready to inform against sundry gentlemen and others of fashion in our neighbourhood as being practisers of the black art, but these informations the justices refused to receive, thinking them either the product of malice or melancholy, or a deception of the devil. They were, however, permitted to accuse Mr. Gideon Penman, formerly minister of Crichton. I find from Wodrow that this man was one of those who conformed to Prelacy in 1663. He was some time afterwards deprived of his charge for sundry acts of uncleanness and other crimes. Two of the witches persistently affirmed that he was present at their meetings with the devil, and when his Satanic Majesty inquired for him he always said, 'Where is Mr. Gideon, my chaplain?' and ordinarily the reverend gentleman was in rear of all their dances, and beat up those who were slow. These accusations undoubtedly originated in malice or some other base motive, and Mr. Penman naturally enough gave a flat denial to all their charges, and was admitted to bail. It would have been interesting to know the result of his trial, but the information I have been unable to obtain.

Readers of Allan Ramsay's *Pastoral* are familiar with the superstitious credulity exhibited by the clownish Bauldy in accusing the old woman Mause of being a witch. The poet, in his delineation of this element in the rustic's character, truly portrays what I have already shown was a general belief with his class in our neighbourhood, as elsewhere at that time. In illustration of this, I will now quote a curious case related in the Session records. On 29th December 1661 Christian Purdie, Agnes Elphinston, and Marion Tweedie, complained to the Session of John Lowrie, on the Green Foot, for calling them

witches, and on 5th January 1662 this man appears before them with the parties he had accused. On his being posed anent the complaint, John denied that he called them witches, but confessed that about two years ago, when he came home on one occasion shortly after midnight from Edinburgh, and as he alighted from his horse at his own door, he espied a fire burning in the fields betwixt his house and the Meal Mill. He further declared that having put his horse into the stable, and after betaking himself to God, he went to see why a fire was kindled there. As he came nigh to the place he saw three women going round and round the fire, each of them having a napkin in her hand, and to his certain knowledge these were the women who complained upon him for calling them witches. John also testified that within a day or two the horse died upon which he rode, and he himself shivered the whole night after he came from the fire, indeed he got no rest in his bed all that night. The aforesaid parties were cited to appear before the Session next day and answer to what John Lowrie declared. On the following day, accordingly, the women presented themselves, and demanded to be put to trial 'by the prines.' This was the common method by which it was alleged that witches could be discovered. It consisted of running pins into their bodies on the pretence of finding the devil's mark, which was said to be on a spot insensible to pain. A class of persons indeed found employment who acted as prickers of witches, and these people were frequently allowed to torture the wretched suspects at their pleasure. I know not whether the Rev. William Dalgarno, minister of the parish, acted as pricker upon this occasion, or whether he delegated the duty to some subordinate official. The result, however, proved the innocence of the accused, and the Session handed over Lowrie to the Dalkeith Presbytery, to be dealt with for his unjust slander. I

have not been able to discover a record of the punishment which was without doubt inflicted upon him by the Court.

A common custom attributed to witches was the disinterment by them of dead bodies, and the using of the joints and other members in the composition of magic draughts and ointments. An accusation against any one of practising in this manner would, accordingly, in those days be looked upon as a very serious matter.

The Session minutes of September 1678 record a case in which a person named Margaret Dickson, residing at Walltower, had wrongously accused John Henderson of Howgate of working his ale with a dead man's skull. This woman ultimately confessed that she had not made the statement seriously, but she had nevertheless to go down on her knees before the Session and humbly confess her fault, promising never to do the like again. John Henderson, the plaintiff upon this occasion, was himself before his ecclesiastical superiors shortly afterwards for the fault of calling the wife of Andrew Burn, Walltower, a witch, and he would no doubt have to satisfy them in a manner similar to that by which his own accuser expiated her transgression.

These charges of witchcraft were indeed resorted to by all classes in Scotland at this time, when one person meant to blacken the character of another. Some of the noblest ladies in the land, notably the Countesses of Athole, Huntly, and Lothian, were in this way openly accused of protecting witches and dealing in charms. Better days were, however, in store for our country, and this dark and tragic chapter in her history was soon to be closed. The last execution of a witch took place at Dornoch in 1722, and twenty-three years afterwards the penal statutes against witchcraft were for ever repealed.

Notwithstanding this more enlightened policy on the part of our civil rulers, it is rather curious to notice that the clergy still

clung to the old order of things. 'This is evidenced by the fact that in 1743 the Associate Presbytery enumerate amongst other national sins that 'the penal statutes against witches have been repealed, contrary to the express law of God.'

GAMES PAST AND PRESENT.

The most popular game, and the one in which our parish has achieved its greatest successes, both in the past and the present, is that of Curling. As generation has succeeded generation the laird and the humblest tenant upon his estate, the employer of labour and his workmen, gentle and simple alike, have met on equal terms on the Penicuik House ponds, each vying with the other in handling the 'channel-stane.'

It would be difficult, indeed impossible, now to ascertain the precise date when this game was introduced into the parish. The famous oblong triangular-shaped black whinstone, which Baron Sir John Clerk, one of the commissioners of the Union, played with, is still preserved in Penicuik House. This evidence, along with the allusions to the game contained in the writings of the Baron's friend and neighbour, Dr. Pennycuik of Newhall, proves to a certainty that it was in vogue during the latter part of the seventeenth century. The two curling-stones, with the horn and the star carved upon them, used by Sir James Clerk in the latter part of last century, which are still preserved, indicate also that under the fostering care of the lairds of Penicuik the roaring game has been a continuous as well as a favourite pastime in our parish. Although the game was an old one, no regular club was formed until the year 1815, when the first meeting was held in the inn of Mr. James Dodds, for the purpose of constituting a society. According to the minutes then drawn up, this step was taken with

a view to produce that improvement in curling which, when put in competition with their neighbours, was so much needed by them. Hitherto the Penicuik curlers had been so deficient that nobody would play with them, but this new departure marked an era in their history, which, before many years had passed, earned for them, from their great opponents, the Merchiston Club, the proud title of 'champions of the icy world.'

The first office-bearers of the Penicuik Curling Club were John Allan, president, and James Jackson, clerk. A committee was also formed—its members being John Aitken, Walston; William Davidson, Coats; Walter Campbell and James Dodds, both of Penicuik. Worthy of all praise, however, as were the services of its first Committee, the Club might never have attained to its eventual prominence had it not been for the patronage and active participation of the Right Honourable Sir George Clerk. He frequently posted down from London in the coldest wintry weather to take his place as skip of his rink in the various matches, by precept as well as by example leading on his club from victory to victory. On the 1st of March 1832 the members of the Club showed their appreciation of his active interest in their behalf by presenting him with a silver-mounted horn. As a further token of their gratitude a manuscript copy of their transactions, beautifully written by John M'Lean, son of James M'Lean, tenant at Ninemileburn, and bound in morocco, was given by the Club to Sir George. This book is still carefully treasured by his successors in the library in Penicuik House.

It is fitting to record also that from time to time Penicuik and Penicuik curlers have taken a prominent place in the curling annals of Scotland. The first match between North and South of the Forth was played before a large number of spectators on the high pond at Penicuik on 15th January 1847.

What is still more interesting, however, is the fact that the Royal Caledonian Curling Club itself was very much the outcome of the suggestions of prominent members of the Penicuik Club. In proof of this it may be mentioned that the original meeting, held fifty-two years ago, which by resolution formed itself into the Grand Caledonian, appointed Charles Cowan, Dr. John Renton, and William Gilbert, all of Penicuik, members of the important committee of nine, in whose hands the constitution of the Club was left. It is worthy of notice, in connection with this fact, that when, on 25th July 1888, 360 gentlemen met together from all parts of Scotland under the presidency of the Marquis of Breadalbane to celebrate the jubilee of the Club, they resolved to do honour to Mr. Charles Cowan of Loganhouse, the sole surviving original founder. The following telegram was accordingly sent him: '360 members of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, met in joyous jubilee, send you heartiest greetings and good wishes—Breadalbane.' A fitting reply was immediately received from Mr. Cowan, then in his eighty-sixth year, indicating his continued and hearty interest in the roaring game. The curling mantle of the father has fallen upon the son and grandsons alike. Mr. Charles W. Cowan of Loganhouse is now president of the club, and the skip of a rink of which his three sons, Alexander, Robert, and Charles, are active and skilful members. The two rink medals won by them this season are an evidence of their prowess, and it is frankly admitted by all Penicuik curlers that the Cowan quartette is hard to beat, even when tackled by the veterans of the club.

In hard winters the Penicuik House ponds are still the scenes of many vigorous contests with our neighbours of Roslin, Peebles, Dalkeith, Merchiston, and other clubs. Penicuik still does credit to her ancient name, and generally manages to hold her own very

successfully, not only against other parish clubs, but when pitted against all comers at Carsebreck, Lochwinnoch, or Cobbinshaw. The well-known curlers of a past generation in our parish have been succeeded by others who are as skilful and enthusiastic as they were. Williamson of Penicuik, Granger of Mount Lothian, Tudhope of Lawhead, and several others, are skips who can be relied upon to make victory almost certain. With such players to represent her, our parish can never be left very far behind in the struggle for pre-eminence.

Another curling club has of late years been formed in the parish. It is chiefly composed of those whose occupation only permits of their indulging in this pastime on Saturday afternoons. Milkhall pond has been selected as the most central and suitable sheet of water for their play.

In the early years of the present century football was a game very popular in our parish. It was usually played upon the village streets—the hails betwixt the church and the minister's barn being just the proper length. Niven, in his pamphlet written at the time, says that the Penicuik players were reckoned first-class at the game—'no other parish being able to stand against them shoulder to shoulder nor the trip of their heel.' This game finally went out of favour, and it is only within the last few years that football clubs have again been formed. It is pleasing to know that the ancient prestige is still kept up, and that Penicuik players are now well known as hard to beat in this particular trial of skill.

Sixty years ago two other types of sport, not so harmless as those already mentioned, were also engaged in by residents in our parish. These were cock-fighting and horse-racing. The first mentioned was generally conducted in the parish school, and was very popular for a time. Every Fastern's-e'en a battle royal, in which all the picked birds took part, was held, and it usually

resulted in a scene of great excitement. This barbarous sport was not, however, approved by the more humane inhabitants, and these sentiments of opposition to the practice gradually prevailing, cock-fighting was finally abandoned, never again, it is to be hoped, to be tolerated in Penicuik parish.

Horse-racing continued in favour for a much longer period. At the annual meet of the Whipman's or Hopeman's Society, the races on Harlaw Muir were an event looked forward to with the keenest interest by young and old alike. This celebration was the occasion in those old days of a general holiday, and the gaily-dressed horses were of themselves a sight worth looking at, resplendent with mirrors, ribbons, and tassels, and with coats glossy with a night's hard grooming. They could not, indeed, have been easily recognised as the patient steeds that on a previous day might have been seen working at the plough or other agricultural service. The procession, even within the writer's own memory, used to be a most imposing one. First marched the village band, then the president of the society, usually mounted upon a grey horse; after him followed the standard-bearer, who, at some financial cost to himself, occupied this coveted position. With great regularity the others followed in double files, and the whole procession marched along the main roads, visiting by the way the houses of the principal gentry. Finally they arrived at Harlaw Muir, and there the races were run, often witnessed by thousands. Accidents frequently happened. In the year 1822, for instance, no fewer than three horses were killed by coming into violent contact with each other when engaged in this, to them, unusual exercise. In consequence of these unfortunate occurrences many efforts were made to discontinue the practice. It was not, however, until the year 1864 that it was finally abolished. The last races were conducted in a field upon the Halls farm, but few, if any, of the

farmers' horses took part. The principal race, if I mistake not, was won by a pony belonging to Mr. White of the Railway Inn.

The game of cricket was introduced about forty or fifty years ago into the parish, and carried on for a considerable time with great spirit. It has occasionally waned in popularity, but at the present time there are, in addition to many juvenile clubs, regular first and second parish elevens. The former is rapidly gaining a high reputation, and contains players amongst its members who could take their place both as batsmen and bowlers in almost any first-class city or provincial club. It may interest the players of the present day to see the subjoined record of one of the matches of the original Penicuik Cricket Club so long ago as the year 1853. The first trial of skill took place at Dalkeith, and the return was played in Brown's park,—a space of ground now covered by the houses of Hamilton Place and Shottstown.

PENICUIK.

<i>First Innings.</i>			<i>Second Innings.</i>		
Paterson,	c. Jackson, b. Jackson,	6	run out,		5
Williams,	c. Do., b. Hindes,	2	run out,		3
Slight,	l.b.w. b. Jackson,	7	. . . . .	b. Bogue,	2
Dewar, c. Lord Dalkeith,	b. Bogue,	23	. . . . .	b. Jackson,	0
Capt. Dowbiggin,	b. Jackson,	0	. . . . .	b. Do.,	1
Ramsay,	b. Do.,	6	c. Lord Dalkeith,	b. Do.,	0
Skinner,	b. Do.,	1	run out,		7
Green,	b. Do.,	8	. . . . .	b. Bogue,	0
Shanks,	b. Do.,	2	run out,		3
Dewar—mason—run out,		3	not out,		0
Megget,	not out,	0	. . . . .	b. Jackson,	1
		58			22
Byes 28, Leg Byes 2, Wide Balls 4,	34		Byes 16, Wides 3, No Ball 1,		20
		92			42

Penicuik total was thus 134, while Dalkeith, with four wickets

to go down, made 136.¹ The Home Club had their revenge, however, at the return match some four weeks afterwards.

The day was fine, though cloudy, and the field was graced by a large number of spectators, among whom were several of the fair sex. The match was played with only ten men, as one of the Dalkeith players did not put in an appearance, and Penicuik did not wish to obtain any unfair advantage. The following are the scores :—

DALKEITH.

<i>First Innings,</i>	.	.	.	.	16	<i>Second Innings,</i>	.	.	.	.	44
Byes,	.	.	.	.	2	Byes,	.	.	.	.	2
					<hr/>						<hr/>
					18						46

PENICUIK.

<i>First Innings.</i>					<i>Second Innings.</i>				
Paterson,	.	.	b. Dean,	2	.	.	.	b. Howden,	0
Green,	.	.	b. Do.,	9					
Williams,	.	.	b. Do.,	2	not out,	.	.	.	2
Bampton,	.	.	b. Feast,	3					
Slight,	c. Hindes,	b. Hindes,	12		not out,	.	.	.	4
Ramsay,	c. Dean,	b. Feast,	21		c. Feast,	.	.	b. Balmain,	0
Dewar,	.	b. Dean,	4						
Capt. Dowbiggin,	.	b. Feast,	2						
Skinner,	.	b. Do.,	0						
Syme,	.	not out,	1						
			<hr/>						<hr/>
			56						5
Byes 1, Wide Balls 3,	.		4						
			<hr/>						<hr/>
			60						5

Total, Dalkeith 64, Penicuik 65, with seven wickets to go down.

A Bowling Club was formed about eight years ago in the village. A green was laid down at considerable cost in the garden at the Bog, belonging to Mr. David Johnston. The writer was elected

¹ I regret that I cannot give the individual scores of the Dalkeith Eleven.

its first president, Mr. Robert Henderson, merchant, treasurer, and Mr. Archibald Cowe, merchant, secretary. Very much owing to the indefatigable interest shown in the Club by the last-mentioned gentleman, it has continued to be a popular and successful summer evening game. Another club was formed about two years ago at Valleyfield. By the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Cowan, its members are allowed to conduct their play on the tennis lawn in the Valleyfield House gardens.

The somewhat aristocratic game of Lawn Tennis is not generally played in the parish, except by a few families who have private courts.

A Bicycle Club has been formed, and has a large membership. It is composed almost entirely of the younger men of the village and parish, but its annual reunion is one of our most popular winter gatherings, and is usually attended by most representative audiences.

Though not connected with any of the before-mentioned matters, another time-honoured custom in Penicuik may as well be mentioned here; that is, the practice still in vogue of the shopkeepers and other citizens distributing fruits and baked breads to the children on Handsel Monday. Early on the morning of that day the village echoes to the cries of 'Handsel' from the gathering crowds of young people on its streets, and hundreds of eager faces may be seen upturned to every door or window from which there is the slightest hope of a golden rain of oranges, or a shower of snaps or 'parleys.' The custom must have begun early in the century, if not at a time anterior. So far back as the time of Sir James Clerk the children of the village used to visit the mansion-house on that morning. The boys got each a sixpence. The girls also got this sum, but only on condition that they could knit a stocking, evidence of which had to be shown by their taking the stocking on

the wires with them, and, if necessary, working a portion of it before Sir James and his lady. It is on record that the late Mr. M'Court, the venerable minister of the parish, who was inducted 16th January 1772, made a practice of giving each scholar in the school a Catechism on Handsel Monday morning, and, with the aid of his housekeeper, distributed snaps and 'parleys' at the manse to them afterwards. It is probable that the practice would be shared in by the shopkeepers and other prominent citizens of these days also. Generation succeeding generation have handed on the custom until present times, and the hearts of many generations of young people yet unborn will doubtless be gladdened by these welcome offerings on Handsel Monday morn.

ILLICIT STILLS.

Amongst such a law-abiding population as that of Penicuik parish offences against the revenue laws have not been at all common. In times past, however, illicit distillation was not viewed with the same disfavour as it is now, and was engaged in to some extent in certain parts of the parish.

In the beginning of the present century a small still was in regular operation at Marfield. The farmer there, with the help of a friend at Ninemileburn, managed to carry on a moderately successful business in its products for a considerable time. Its existence was finally suspected, and visits to the neighbourhood by the revenue officers became frequent. So successfully was it hidden, however, that all their efforts for its discovery proved futile. Upon the occasion of one of their last visits the officers were encountered by the farmer and his friend, who both in a bantering way expressed regret that so much faithful searching should have been

rewarded with so little success. As a kind of solatium they were invited into the farm-house to partake of the guidwife's hospitality. This offer was thankfully accepted by the wet and weary excisemen. A few tumblers of toddy, brewed from the home-made spirits, tasted none the worse for its having yielded no revenue to his Majesty. A very jovial afternoon and evening they all spent together, and the officers were guided homewards through the moss in the moonlight by the genial host whose operations they had come to disturb. Almost immediately after the occurrence of this episode Marfield and his friend resolved to stop their venturesome business, and so end the risk of detection and disgrace.

About the same time there lived one John Cairns, at a place called the Steele, not far from Carlops. Assisted by his friend the weaver at Monkshaugh, this worthy had erected a whisky still in the moss near to his house. At that time Carlops was a thriving village, tenanted by weavers doing a large business in the products of their looms. Stage-coaches passed through it daily, and a fair was held on its streets twice in the year. There was consequently a good demand in the immediate neighbourhood for the contraband article which was manufactured by the two worthies. They were kept thus pretty busy, and their output became so considerable that a sough of it could hardly help reaching the ears of the ever-watchful gaugers. One misty morning several of these gentlemen set out in search of the still, a hint of its whereabouts having been conveyed to them. Cairns and the weaver luckily saw them on their way, and hurriedly managed to bundle out all their apparatus and bury it in the moss. While they were thus engaged, Cairns's house was being searched by the officers. A barrel of whisky unfortunately stood with its bunghole open in a small apartment near to the door. This would certainly have

led to detection, had not the guidwife, with remarkable presence of mind, and unseen by her visitors, inserted a filler into it, through which she had been pouring butter-milk. The ruse succeeded ; what looked like a harmless milk-barrel was never disturbed, and the gaugers departed as empty as they came. Mrs. Cairns, however, got such a fright, that she insisted upon the operations with the still being abandoned. Her guidman and his friend with many regrets were compelled to obey, and so one more source of hurt to the revenue was removed from the parish.

Not quite so successful in the way of avoiding detection was a worthy named Rob Scott, also a residenter near to Carlops. For a long time after the period in which the events already narrated occurred, he carried on a good business on the products of a private whisky-still. By his boldness and ingenuity he managed for years to elude the prying eyes of the revenue officers. At last, whether it was owing to the place of his operations having been betrayed to them, or perhaps by reason of the greater thoroughness of their search, these officials came upon his still. After demolishing the wooden vessels connected with it, they tied the more valuable apparatus connected with the distillation on the back of the covered conveyance in which they had driven out from Edinburgh. On their return journey they halted for refreshments at Ninemileburn inn. Mr. Thomas M'Lean, the landlord, who possibly may have reaped considerable benefit by Rob's operations, saw and heard with sorrow the result of their expedition. On the departure of the revenue officers he remarked within hearing of his servant-maids, 'If ony lass wants a new ribbon, now is her chance if she cuts that string.' This timely allusion to the hempen cord which bound Rob's apparatus to the carriage was not misunderstood by one of his auditors. Helen Barr, mother of a well-known inhabitant of Carlops still alive, was

only too glad to avail herself of the opportunity to serve Rob and secure to herself a coveted possession. Slipping after the conveyance as it rattled over the rough road, she used her knife so deftly, that one after another of the articles fell to the ground. Picked up by willing hands, they were, under darkness of the night, conveyed to their owner, who soon had his still in full working operation again somewhere in the neighbourhood of Stoneypath.

The revenue officers, on their arrival in the metropolis, were much disconcerted to find that they had nothing to show for their trouble. They returned by the same road early next morning in the hope of recovering some of the lost articles—but their mission was in vain.

Another illicit still existed in the village of Penicuik early in the century. It was worked in the premises now tenanted by Mr. John Johnston, baker, by a citizen commonly known as Buckram Scott. An old residenter informs me that he has often heard his mother tell how its presence was finally revealed. The barrel in which the spirit was contained sprung a leak one fine morning, and its contents found their way down the pipe leading to a spout which then existed in the Delve Brae. Some workmen, refreshing themselves with a draft on their way to the paper-mill in the morning, indulged very freely in its unusual contents. Their inebriated condition caused investigation into the circumstances, and the result was the discovery of the still. It is not on record, however, that any punishment was meted out to the offender.

Even the ladies tried their hands in those days at this work. For a long time one Jenny Stevenson kept a still going on Cuicken Burn, and very cunningly she managed to dispose of her liquid and escape detection. Her operations were finally stopped by a severe accident which befell her in her own house. One

night, wearied by her exertions at the burnside, and probably having sampled pretty freely the barley-bree, she fell asleep at the fireside, and falling forward into the fire, was so severely burnt, that she was rendered thereafter a helpless invalid.

The Rev. W. Scott Moncrieff, minister of Penicuik, writing in the year 1839, states that smuggling had been completely abandoned in the parish, very much owing to the residence in the village of excise-officers, whose duties were connected with the collection of the revenue upon the paper made at the various mills in the vicinity. Neither the reverend gentleman nor the excisemen, however, seemed to be aware of the fact that at that very time a man, whose name I will not mention, had a still going occasionally at the south-east corner of the village. He worked away at it quietly for many years, finding a ready market for its products. It was his boast that, amongst other consignments which he made, he once sent ten gallons to London amongst the baggage of Sir George Clerk—unknown, of course, to the right honourable gentleman, but no doubt with the connivance of those members of his establishment for whose use it was intended. This was in all probability the last case of illicit distillation in the parish. It is not known certainly that there has been any recurrence of the reprehensible practice within the last forty or fifty years.

FOLK-LORE.

In parish histories it is usual to include, under this heading, any customs or superstitions which may be attached to wells or springs in their particular neighbourhood. I do not think, however, so far as our parish is concerned, that there is anything to relate in connection with these matters, unless it be

the fact that long ago people repaired in considerable numbers to a chalybeate spring in the Newhall woods, on the south side of the Esk, under the impression that by drinking of its waters they would be healed of every manner of trouble. Legends of wonderful cures still exist, but any belief in its efficacy in serious complaints appears nowadays to be altogether dissipated.

Within living memory considerable interest centred in a spring that rose at the west edge of the plantation which borders the cemetery. It was surrounded by three or four upright slabs, and its waters were pure and sweet. It was known as the Gypsy's Well, and tradition points to its immediate neighbourhood as the site of a permanent gypsy encampment, which existed long ago in our parish. The wild life and predatory habits of these people did not at all times make them very safe or desirable neighbours, as the following story will sufficiently illustrate.

One Sunday morning Sir John Clerk, the first baronet of that name, looking from the windows of his mansion, saw a band of these gypsies approaching it with apparent evil intent. He was alone, all the other members of his family, with the servants, being at church. After hurriedly closing all the doors and windows, he barricaded himself in his own room, and prepared for defence. He was not a man whom it was safe to tackle; for, according to his son, Baron Clerk, he was one of the strongest men of his time, finely made, with the shoulders of a Hercules. Shots were soon freely interchanged between him and his assailants. The latter, however, finally effected their entrance. The old house of Penicuik or Newbigging, as it was then called, was a handsome turreted mansion, and one of the gypsies, while straying through it in search of plate and other portable articles, began to ascend the narrow stair of one of the turrets. When he had got up some height his foot slipped, and, to save himself from falling,

he caught hold of a rope which was hanging near him. It proved to be the bell-rope, and the fellow's weight in falling set the bell a-ringing. This startled those in the neighbourhood, and the news of it speedily reached the church. Very soon a party made their way to the mansion-house, and they not only relieved the laird from his perilous position, but were successful in apprehending several of the gypsies. These men were shortly afterwards executed, and this severe punishment must have served as a warning to others, for there is no record of any further disturbance being caused by them in Penicuik parish. In process of time, indeed, owing to the increasing power of the law and the improved state of the country, these gypsy bands were greatly reduced in number, whole gangs of them were banished, and the comparatively small residue of them that now exist have taken up their residence principally in the border counties.

MARRIAGE AND BURIAL CUSTOMS.

It is usual also to include under the heading of Folk-Lore any peculiar customs connected with marriages, deaths, and burials. In regard to the first mentioned there is at the present time nothing distinctive in Penicuik parish. The ceremony is rarely conducted in church, but generally in the house of the bride, and amongst the working-classes usually in the evening. Forty or fifty years ago, however, the practice of running or riding the bruize or braes was of common occurrence at our country weddings, especially in the western portion of the parish. If the future home of the happy couple was within a moderate distance, the young fellows present generally started on foot, at the conclusion of the ceremony, in hot haste to reach it, and secure the

bottle of whisky which was placed there handy for the lifting. If at a distance, horses were requisitioned, and many a break-neck gallop at these celebrations has been taken part in and witnessed by people still living amongst us. The practice of breaking a cake over the head of the bride upon her crossing the threshold of her own door, so common in those days, is still in vogue, although it is rapidly falling into disuse. The vanishing of many an old-world custom may call forth a natural regret, but the extinction of the practice of 'bedding' the newly-married couple, which was once common in the parish, must be looked on as an undeniable advantage to its morals.

Within living memory the practice of creeling the newly married man was common amongst the humbler classes in our parish. The day after the wedding a party of his friends and neighbours, usually provided with a large basket or creel, visited his house. By main force the article was fixed upon his back and rapidly filled with stones, a process which was continued until the poor victim's wife came out and kissed him in such manner as satisfied his tormentors. He was then relieved of his load, and an adjournment for refreshments completed the performance.

Burial customs have all along been similar to those in neighbouring parishes. At country funerals the habit of treating the mourners to refreshment, in the shape of cake and wine, is still kept up. A religious service is usually conducted in the house, and sometimes at the churchyard. Formerly the coffin used often to be carried for long distances to the place of interment, but the employment of a hearse for that purpose is now general. White gloves are used at the funerals of unmarried people, but the rigid adherence to the wearing of sombre black habiliments is not so observable now as formerly.

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In former times frequent individual attempts have been made in the direction of reform of funeral customs, but to little purpose. It is on record, for instance, that the first Sir John Clerk, who died in 1722, left strict injunctions to his family and dependants that no mournings were to be worn for him after his death. His funeral was of the simplest kind: a plain hearse, and six coaches for those accompanying it, conveying his remains from Newbigging House to Penicuik Churchyard.

It has not been customary for women to attend funerals in Penicuik, but even this habit is changing. At the recent burials of those who perished in the memorable Mauricewood Colliery disaster, the sad scene was made even more affecting to mourners and onlookers by the presence of the poor widows, each following the remains of her beloved husband to the tomb.

CHAPTER X.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

PETER BORTHWICK, M.P.

ABOUT the beginning of the present century the father of the subject of this sketch was for a time employed as a workman on the well-known farm of Cornbank, then tenanted by the Messrs. Cowan.

The future member of Parliament himself attended the village school, then taught by Mr. Muir, better known as Dominie Muir. Little is known of his early career; but it is evident that he had been an apt pupil, for when a comparatively young man he opened an adventure school in Auchendinny, and during vacation periods attended the United Associate Hall as a student. This scholastic adventure not proving a financial success, he next secured a situation as tutor to a young lady who lived with her uncle near to Coldstream. This was not the least interesting period of his somewhat romantic life, for while instilling into his pupil's brain a knowledge of the humanities, he at the same time successfully managed to obtain in return the love of her heart. They were married in opposition, it is said, to the will of her guardian, who refused to pay over her small fortune until she could legally claim it. For some time afterwards the young couple had in consequence a hard battle to make ends meet. Mr. Borthwick made

shift to continue his classes at the Hall; and during the same period engaged in various ventures in Dalkeith and Edinburgh to enable him to provide for the wants of his household and pay his college expenses.

For some reason or other, and much to his disappointment, he was prevented by the Presbytery of Edinburgh from finishing his theological course. Shortly afterwards his wife obtained possession of her modest fortune, and they migrated to Oxford, at which famous university Mr. Borthwick studied for some time with a view to taking holy orders. This project was not successful, and for some time afterwards he obtained occupation in one or other of the London theatres. Possessed of great gifts as an orator, he was subsequently engaged by the West India interest as lecturer on slavery in opposition to George Thompson, the 'immediate emancipation' advocate. He came down to Scotland, and addressed many large audiences in the principal cities. The fact that before recrossing the Border he was presented with a handsome service of silver-plate by those in whose interest he lectured is a sufficient evidence that his efforts were highly appreciated by them.

For some time after this Mr. Borthwick devoted his attention to politics, and he ultimately obtained a seat in Parliament as member for the pocket burgh of Evesham, County Worcester. He was twice elected for this constituency; but he never made any great impression in the House. Mr. Borthwick having been defeated on his final effort to retain the representation of Evesham, he thereafter turned his attention to journalism, obtaining, I believe, the editorship of the *Morning Post*, which he conducted with remarkable ability. This paper was the recognised organ of the upper circles of society, and took under its special protection the members of the Young England party, of whom

Mr. Disraeli was one of the most prominent. Mr. Borthwick died at a comparatively early age in the year 1852, and was succeeded in the control of the *Morning Post* by his son, Sir Algernon Borthwick, Bart., M.P., a prominent member of London society, who has by his admirable management extended the influence and maintained the high reputation of that journal.

The career of Mr. Borthwick was in many ways a remarkable one. It affords an example of indomitable perseverance, and as such may encourage others in our parish to press on and emulate those qualities which ultimately led in his case to wealth and fame.

GEORGE MEIKLE KEMP,

ARCHITECT OF SIR WALTER SCOTT'S MONUMENT.

George Kemp was the son of a shepherd employed upon the Newhall estate, whose home was at Ninemileburn. In his tenth year (1806) George was sent by Mr. Brown of Newhall on some message to Roslin, where he obtained a sight of the beautiful chapel. So deep an impression did this make upon his mind that it was the means of ultimately deciding him in his choice of a trade. As soon as he was able for work he was apprenticed to a joiner in the vicinity of Peebles. After finishing his period of probation he obtained employment in Galashiels; and there had frequent opportunities of visiting Melrose, Dryburgh, Kelso, and Jedburgh, where are to be seen some of the richest specimens of ancient ecclesiastical architecture in Scotland.

Kemp afterwards proceeded to England, where he sought every opportunity of increasing his knowledge of Gothic designs. Returning to Edinburgh, he worked for a time at his trade as a joiner; and it was during this period, I believe, that he had an interesting interview with the great man whose memory the

beautiful creation of his brain so nobly perpetuates. Kemp quitted his bench for a week's holiday amongst the old cathedrals of the Borders. Starting upon his journey on foot he passed through Dalkeith, and while ascending an eminence to the south of that town, he was overtaken by a carriage whose occupants beckoned him to join them. He found himself in the company of an amiable elderly gentleman and lady. With the former he soon got upon such excellent terms that he displayed to him some of his recent sketches. The gentleman talked of the ecclesiastical antiquities of the Borders in a manner that fired the enthusiastic bosom of the young architect, who deeply regretted when the town of Galashiels was reached, where he had to part from his agreeable companions. As the carriage rolled away he learned from a bystander that he had been travelling with Sir Walter and Lady Scott. In 1824 Kemp went to London, and during that year crossed over to the Continent, and there, working at his trade for support, travelled from place to place wherever fine architecture was to be seen. On his return to Scotland he started in business on his own account; but he was unsuccessful, and finally returned to work at the bench, to which occupation he added that of architectural draughtsman. In 1835, when the movement for a Monument to Sir Walter Scott was set on foot, the Committee advertised for designs, offering fifty guineas to each of three plans which should possess the greatest merit. Fifty-four designs were received in answer to this, and one of the three which secured the above premium was from Mr. Kemp, under the pseudonym of *John Morvo*, whom of course nobody knew. This, however, was only the 'first idea'—in 1838 he sent in the 'Competition Drawing' for the Monument which was adopted in connection with the statue of Mr. John Steell. Several other drawings were made by Mr. Kemp, and he was employed by the committee to

make the *Model* from which the masons were to work, and this may still be seen in the Industrial Museum of Edinburgh.¹

Kemp, however, did not live to see the completion of the beautiful fabric which his genius had created, for on the 6th March 1844 the inhabitants of Edinburgh were startled by the announcement that his dead body had been found in the canal. The previous night had been unusually foggy and dark, and, instead of passing up the street leading to his home, he wandered on to the wharf, fell into the canal, and was drowned. He was buried in St. Cuthbert's Churchyard. The Magistrates of Edinburgh and several other public bodies, along with the general and auxiliary committees of the monument, and members of the Scottish Academy, accompanied the procession.

And thus passed away one of whom our parish may well be proud. He loved our district well, and often spoke of the green braes beside the Ninemileburn where his youth was spent. He was a genial and lovable man, and was fired with a genius of a high order, which, had he lived, might have lifted him to a high niche in the temple of fame, and the possession of as much of this world's goods as his heart could have desired.

ALEXANDER KEITH JOHNSTON, LL.D.

Alexander Keith Johnston was born at the little village of Kirkhill, in the parish of Penicuik, on 28th December 1804. His parents shortly afterwards removed to Edinburgh, and when of school age, Alexander and his elder brother, William, were sent to the High School of that city. Alexander was intended to study medicine. But it was not in that connection that the physical sciences had for him their irresistible fascination; and with a

¹ See the *Scott Centenary Exhibition Catalogue* (1871), p. 5.

view to aid him in the practical working out of his favourite geographical studies, he was apprenticed to a skilful copperplate engraver, and by this means he became an expert in delineating the outlines of maps. In 1826 Mr. Johnston became a partner in business with his brother, William. The latter, an able and far-seeing business man, became in 1848 Chief Magistrate of the city, and was knighted for his distinguished services. He also was born at Kirkhill in Penicuik, and purchased an estate of the same name in East Lothian.

The first large work of Mr. Keith Johnston was the *National Atlas*, which was published in folio in 1843 ; it involved immense labour for several years, as foreign authorities—specially French and German—had to be consulted, and numerous errors even of the best previous atlases had to be corrected. The merits of this work were at once recognised, and its author was appointed Royal Geographer for Scotland. It went through many editions, and was considered the best of its time.

The firm rapidly rose to a front rank as map publishers, and this was accompanied with corresponding financial success. While prosecuting his researches in foreign fields of geographical knowledge, Mr. Johnston was much impressed with the new and improved methods adopted by the Germans in the preparation of their maps, and he determined to construct a *Physical Atlas* in a manner suited to the tastes of the British people, and on a scale sufficient to admit of entering fully into the details of physical phenomena. Once fairly entered upon this gigantic task, he devoted every hour of the day to the most exhaustive researches and calculations, often obliterating the labour of weeks, and beginning afresh upon another and improved plan. He visited the Continent in 1842, and purchased the copyright of some of Berghaus's maps. He also entered into an extensive correspond-

ence with the leading geographers of the day in all lands. After five years of unremitting toil this splendid work was published in 1848, each of its thirty maps being accompanied with elaborate letterpress descriptions, written either by himself or by some one versed in the subject. It received the most flattering recognition both at home and abroad, and brought to its author the presentation of honorary and corresponding fellowships of most of the Geographical Societies both in Europe and America. A second edition of the *Physical Atlas* was published in 1856, and this was followed in 1861 by his last great work, the *Royal Atlas of Geography*. In 1865 the University of Edinburgh conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. In 1871 Dr. Johnston was presented with the Victoria Medal of the Royal Geographical Society for his long-continued and successful services in advancing the knowledge of geography.

While his career was one of unremitting intellectual labour, Dr. Johnston was not unmindful of higher interests. While diligent in business he was truly fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. An office-bearer in the Free Church of Scotland, he exerted by his gentle, unassuming, and genuinely Christian character, a good influence upon all with whom he came in contact. He died on the 10th of July 1871, regretted by a large circle of devoted friends.

PROFESSOR DAVID SCOT.

This excellent man, author of a *Key to the Pentateuch*, *Key to the Psalms*, a *Hebrew Grammar*, and other learned works, was born in the parish of Penicuik. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh for the Ministry, and was licensed to preach the Gospel, but, failing speedily to get a charge, he studied medicine and obtained the degree of M.D. While thus fitted to adorn two of

the learned professions, he yet continued to devote much of his time to the study of Oriental literature. Having acquired a knowledge of most of the Eastern languages, both ancient and modern, he applied himself to the teaching and preparation of young men about to go to India—a work in which he was eminently successful. In 1814 he was presented to the church of Corstorphine, in which he continued to labour faithfully for nineteen years. About 1833 he was elected Professor of Hebrew in St. Mary's College, St. Andrews, but his career there only lasted two sessions. He had visited Edinburgh to be present at the meeting of the British Association, but was seized with a dropsical complaint, and, after a few days' illness, died in the month of September 1834.

CHARLES COWAN, OF LOGANHOUSE.

On the 29th March 1889 there was removed by death from our midst one whose name was a household word in Penicuik parish, and whose stately presence was familiar to all within its borders.

Charles Cowan, the subject of this sketch, was the eldest son of Alexander Cowan of Valleyfield, and was born in South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh, on 7th June 1801. He received his elementary education at the Penicuik parish school. After the purchase of the paper-mills by Government in 1811, his father removed with his family to Edinburgh, and there its future representative in Parliament entered the High School, which he continued to attend until 1814. In that year he was enrolled as a student of the University of Edinburgh, and he attended its various classes for three or four complete sessions. His time of study at the University was followed by a year's sojourn in Geneva, under the charge of Mr. Daniel Ellis, F.R.S.E., an intimate friend of the family. Before returning home Mr. Cowan made

a tour of the principal cities of the Netherlands, including Brussels and the field of Waterloo, which latter place had become historic as the scene of the final downfall of Napoleon Bonaparte.

In 1819 he went to St. Mary Cray, Kent, to learn the business of paper-making. After continuing there for some time, he returned to take his share in the management of the extensive establishment at Valleyfield, with which his name has been so long and honourably connected.

There is no need for dwelling at any length here on Mr. Cowan's success as a business man. The chapter recording the operations of his firm at Valleyfield will sufficiently indicate the ability with which he, along with his brothers—Mr. John Cowan of Beeslack, and Mr. James Cowan, ex-M.P. for Edinburgh—managed its affairs. Mr. Cowan's name soon became known, not only as one who had attained to the first rank as a paper manufacturer, but also because of the prominent part which he took in the political and ecclesiastical questions which in his early manhood began to stir the heart of the nation. He took his full share in the agitation for reform, which finally ended in the passing of the Reform Bill of 1832. At the election in that year Mr. Cowan did yeoman service in behoof of Sir John Dalrymple, the Liberal candidate for Midlothian, who defeated Sir George Clerk, the sitting member, by sixty-five votes. A great dinner was given in the Sulle in Valleyfield mills—the new member and most of the leading Liberals of the county being present—at which Mr. Cowan's prominent share in the contest was fully recognised. It required no little courage on his part, considering the friendship which existed between his near neighbour, Sir George Clerk, and himself, thus actively to oppose him, but it proved the depth of convictions which would not allow him longer to tolerate legislation which had occupied itself with the creation of special

advantages to the rich, and overlooked the wrongs which had pressed so heavily on the poor.

The agitation within the Church, which culminated in the Disruption, also obtained Mr. Cowan's warm support. He was active in initiating and preparing the protest sent by the elders of the Dalkeith Presbytery against the subversion of the constitution of the Church of Scotland by the civil power. In his *Reminiscences*, printed in 1878, for private circulation, Mr. Cowan gives many interesting particulars of these exciting times. A curious story is there told by him of a certain country minister who, in his unbelief of the seriousness of the crisis, had expressed his willingness to eat all who seceded from the Church. This statement Mr. Cowan told to his relative Dr. Chalmers, who sent a message by him to the worthy clergyman, congratulating him on the prospect of such a plentiful meal. On the day of the Disruption Mr. Cowan met the reverend gentleman and delivered the great doctor's message. His reply was, 'Did I really say that? I dinna mind; but it's very like me. But I hope I'm no bund to eat them a' at aince!' In the sketch of the rise and progress of the Free Church in Penicuik, contained on another page, it will also be seen how generous was the aid afforded to that congregation by Mr. Cowan in its time of difficulty and trial.

Hardly had the Free Church come into existence when the attention of public-spirited men in Scotland was directed to the galling and oppressive administration of the excise laws. In 1845 an association was formed in Edinburgh to obtain redress of grievances; and when two years later a general election came round, Mr. Cowan was pressed to offer himself as a candidate to represent the city in opposition to the Right Hon. Thomas Babington Macaulay, whose views on the subject were not considered satisfactory.

This prominent position was unsought by Mr. Cowan, for no one entertained a higher opinion of his great opponent than he did. Convinced, however, of the righteousness of the cause which he espoused, and his mind once made up as to his duty in the matter, he entered into the contest with the greatest spirit, and on July 30th, 1847, he was returned at the top of the poll by 2063 votes as against 1854 recorded for Mr. Macaulay.

This event was the cause of great rejoicing in Penicuik. Messages from Edinburgh giving at frequent intervals the state of the poll, were conveyed by relays of horsemen, the figures being posted up at the head of the Delve Brae. When tidings of victory reached the village, the citizens went out *en masse* to meet and welcome the newly elected M.P. on his return journey from Edinburgh. At Cuicken Bridge the horses were taken from his carriage, and he was pulled home in triumph amid the cheers of the people. Bonfires were lit in the streets, refreshments were provided, and the evening was spent in general rejoicing. Mr. Cowan's parliamentary life was a busy one. Although he did not attain to prominence as a speaker, few men were more useful in the Committees of the House, and his services were much sought after.

The Parliament of 1847 lasted five years, and in 1852 he was re-elected for Edinburgh after a contest in which Mr. Duncan M'Laren and Mr. Macaulay also stood as candidates. The latter topped the poll with 1846 votes, and it said much for the appreciation of Mr. Cowan's services that his constituents again returned him—this time as the colleague of his great opponent—by 1753 votes. At the next election Mr. Cowan retired from the representation of the metropolis, and he did not again actively participate in politics until 1880, a year memorable in the history of Mid-Lothian because of Mr. Gladstone's successful effort in wresting the

county from the Earl of Dalkeith, who had, with a short interval, represented it for so many years in the Conservative interest.

In the absence abroad of his brother, Mr. John Cowan of Beeslack, chairman of the Mid-Lothian Liberal Association, Mr. Cowan, though burdened with the weight of years, presided at a large and enthusiastic meeting held by Mr. Gladstone in the United Presbyterian Church, Penicuik, in the course of his famous campaign. Upon that occasion the great statesman made several kindly and appreciative allusions to the past services rendered to the Liberal cause by the chairman. This was Mr. Cowan's last appearance upon a political platform, and it practically marked his retirement from all participation in public affairs.

I shall conclude this imperfect sketch of this excellent gentleman's public career by a short allusion to his domestic life. Mr. Cowan was married on Tuesday, 19th October 1824, to Miss Catherine Menzies, second daughter of the Rev. William Menzies of Lanark. This lady is remembered with a kindly affection by many in Penicuik. Her gracious demeanour and unceasing interest in the welfare of the people, and her ready help and sympathy in times of trouble, endeared her to all. After a happy wedded life of forty-seven years Mr. Cowan had the unspeakable affliction of losing this dear and faithful partner of his home. Eight of her thirteen children survived to mourn with him in his bereavement.

In the year 1852 Mr. Cowan purchased the estate of Loganhouse from Mr. William Robertson, Deputy Keeper of Records, Register House. At a subsequent period he also acquired the smaller adjoining property of Fairliehope, now in the possession of his son, Mr. John James Cowan.

In 1878 there occurred the ever memorable failure of the City of Glasgow Bank. Mr. Cowan was one of the heaviest sufferers

by the disaster. This hard fortune he bore with becoming equanimity—an equanimity the more remarkable in consideration of the fact that at his already advanced age he could not hope to retrieve by his own exertions any portion of that which he had lost.

In the year of the Bank failure Mr. Cowan printed for private circulation the *Reminiscences* of his life. These memoirs contain much of interest, and reveal a good deal of the inner character of their author. It will be seen from them that Mr. Cowan, in the course of his long life, met many prominent men, and formed warm and lasting friendships with not a few of them.

Although ever diligent in business, he yet could spare the time for an occasional visit to the Continents of Europe and America, and was an appreciative student of the manners and customs of their peoples. So long as his physical strength permitted, Mr. Cowan was an enthusiastic sportsman, and his own Pentland hills resounded year after year with the crack of his ready gun. He was also a keen curler, and was indeed the oldest surviving member of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. For some years before his death, as is the case with many old people, Mr. Cowan's memory seemed to fail him; present events made little impression upon him, although he delighted to speak of old times and the people and places he then knew. He died at Wester Lea, Murrayfield, near Edinburgh, on 29th March 1889, and the newspapers which chronicled the sad fact also contained notices of the death of his distinguished contemporary, John Bright. Touching tributes were paid to the life-work of each. The great tribune, endowed beyond his fellows with a noble eloquence, had manfully used this gift during his long life in helping to redress the wrongs which bore heavily upon the nation. Mr. Cowan, though not possessing great powers as an orator, yet used his talents as faithfully as did

Mr. Bright, and like him, both in the affairs of Church and State, was ever found on the side of the oppressed, and with those who truly desired the weal of the people.

Mr. Cowan was buried in Penicuik Churchyard. The funeral was the largest that had been seen for many years. The shops were all closed, and every token of respect manifested. The beautiful hymn beginning,

‘I heard the voice of Jesus say,
Come unto me and rest,’

was sung over his open grave, and must assuredly have been joined in by many who felt that a good man had gone to his rest, full of years and honours, and that, his travelling days being done, he was now walking in the ‘light of life.’

PROMINENT LIVING MEN CONNECTED WITH PENICUIK.

The fact that there have gone out from our parish in days past men who have been a credit to it cannot but be gratifying to present-day parishioners. It must also be equally satisfactory to know that we have contemporaries, claiming Penicuik as their birthplace, who have in different spheres attained to positions of eminence. It is, of course, impossible to write as fully and freely of the career of such men as of those who are no longer present with us; but it would not be right to close this chapter without a passing allusion to one or two of the more prominent of them.

First of these may be mentioned Mr. JAMES COWAN, formerly Member of Parliament for the city of Edinburgh. Mr. Cowan is a son of the late Mr. Alexander Cowan of Valleyfield, and brother of the late Mr. Charles Cowan, Mr. John Cowan of Beeslack, and Mr. George Cowan. He has all along been

actively connected with the management of the extensive business of Alexander Cowan & Sons, more especially, however, in the department carried on in Register Street, Edinburgh. Notwithstanding Mr. Cowan's busy commercial life, he has for long been identified with many good works in the metropolis.

The appreciation of these labours by his fellow-citizens resulted in Mr. Cowan's election to the office of Chief Magistrate in the year 1872. His tact and business ability were conspicuously manifest while discharging the duties of this honourable and important position. Some time after his appointment, and before the termination of his term of office, a vacancy occurred in the representation of the city. Mr. Cowan, at the call of his fellow-electors, demitted office, and was thereafter returned as one of the Members of Parliament for the metropolis in the Liberal interest.

PROFESSOR JAMES COSSAR EWART.

Next may be mentioned Dr. JAMES COSSAR EWART, Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh. This distinguished man is a native of Penicuik, and received his elementary education at Kirkhill School. Dr. Ewart graduated at Edinburgh as Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery in 1874, and four years later received the higher degree of Doctor of Medicine. On the latter occasion he received the University gold medal for his thesis containing the results of original investigations into the life-history of some of the lower organisms. In 1875 Dr. Ewart was appointed Conservator of the Zoological and Anatomical Museum in University College, London. While filling this post he enriched the first-mentioned department with a valuable and typical teaching collection of vertebrate and invertebrate forms, and the latter with numerous dissections.

During the temporary absence of the Professor of Comparative Anatomy and Zoology, Dr. Ewart had entire charge of the class of practical zoology during a whole summer session, and gave unmistakable proofs of his powers as a teacher. At the close of the year 1878 he secured the appointment of Professor of Natural History in the University of Aberdeen, and his work there was marked by conspicuous success.

In the year 1882, and while under thirty years of age, Professor Ewart was appointed to succeed the late Sir Charles Wyville Thomson in the chair of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh. In this capacity Professor Ewart has rendered valuable aid towards scientific research, while, as a member of the Fishery Board, he has, by his practical suggestions as to the care and development of the supply of our food fishes, put the great fishing industry under a deep debt of obligation to him.

BAILIE ANDREW M'DONALD.

Another native of Penicuik parish who has attained to a prominent position in the metropolis is BAILIE ANDREW M'DONALD, ex-Master of the Merchant Company. Born in Kirkhill—the birthplace also of Alexander Keith Johnston and his brother, Sir William Johnston—Mr. M'Donald, at an early age, began the battle of life in the Scottish metropolis, and in the midst of a successful business career has been able to devote himself to the interests of his adopted town in a manner which few have equalled or excelled. His first public efforts were in connection with the City Parochial Board, to which he was elected in 1879.

A year afterwards Mr. M'Donald formed his first connection with the Merchant Company, and for eleven years he has been one of the leading and guiding spirits in connection with that im-

portant trust. He has been twice honoured in being elected to the highest position the Assistants have to bestow, that of Master of the Company. As a further evidence of the appreciation of his invaluable services it may be mentioned, that at the close of the last term of office, Mr. M'Donald's portrait, painted by Mr. W. E. Lockhart, R.S.A., was presented by a large number of subscribers to the Merchant Company. It now occupies a prominent position on the walls of their large hall in Hanover Street. It is a splendid work of art, and reveals to the onlooker not only a correct representation of the lineaments of the original, but also much of that force of character, yet withal kindly bearing, which so distinguishes Bailie M'Donald.

In 1881 Mr. M'Donald was induced to enter the Town Council for George Square Ward, and he was three times returned without opposition to represent that constituency. By the unanimous desire of his fellow-councillors he was, during his last term of office, elevated to the Bench of Magistrates. In 1889 the gift of the freedom of the city was bestowed upon Charles S. Parnell, the leader of the Irish Parliamentary party. Bailie M'Donald did not favour the action of the majority of the Council in this matter, and this attitude cost him his seat at the election which took place in the same year. The general feeling of regret by his many friends and supporters at temporarily losing Mr. M'Donald's services in the parliament of the city, and their appreciation of the spirit and ability which he had shown in many departments of city life, resulted in a presentation to him of a costly piece of silver plate and other valuable articles. Bailie M'Donald did not, however, get long time to rest from his municipal labours.

A vacancy occurred in Newington Ward in the same year, and a plebiscite of the constituency resulted in his being again returned to the Town Council as its interim representative.

At the election on 4th November, this appointment was confirmed by his return at the top of the poll. Three days afterwards, at the meeting of Council, he was again invested with the chains of office; and the friends of Bailie M'Donald believe that still further civic honours await him in the future.

LOCAL WORTHIES.

Having thus described the career of some of those who, though born in the parish, yet left it to attain elsewhere to positions of prominence and affluence, it may not be unprofitable to give some accounts of other men of great ability and force of character whose association with Penicuik was of a closer and more permanent nature.

First of these may be mentioned JAMES NIVEN, who, before the end of last century, distinguished himself as a traveller and botanist. The careful and painstaking researches of this intelligent citizen into the history of the flora and fauna of his native land attracted the attention of several eminent specialists; and in 1796 he was sent out under the patronage of one of them, Mr. George Hibbert, of Clapham, to the Cape of Good Hope. He continued there for about five years, travelling and exploring—often at considerable risk to life and limb—in search of new plants. Nor was his work in vain, for he sent home during that time various consignments of rare and unknown species.

Mr. Niven returned to Penicuik in the year 1803; but after a short stay of three months his services were again engaged by a party of eminent scientific amateurs—amongst whom was the accomplished though unfortunate Empress Josephine of France—to return to South Africa and pursue his researches. On this mission he was successfully engaged for about nine years, after

which time he finally returned to Penicuik, and entered into business with his brother John in the corner premises now occupied by Mr. James Russell. Mr. Niven thereafter married a daughter of Mr. Abernethy of Westside, who bore him a family. His son, Dr. Niven, attained to eminence as a physician in Edinburgh; while two of his daughters were married to wealthy citizens of that town. The subject of our sketch died, I think, in 1827; and appreciative notices of his services to botanical research appeared in the papers and magazines of the time.

Another well-known citizen of a past generation was Mr. JAMES JACKSON, whose much-esteemed daughter, Miss Jackson, still resides in our village. This excellent and learned man was educated at the parish school, and at a very early age showed signs of literary tastes and abilities. His father, as may be seen in the chapter dealing with the political history of the parish, was a prominent and somewhat extreme Radical; but the son was all his life closely identified with the landed and Conservative interests in the parish. His business was that of a market gardener, and in connection with his strong political views the story is told of him that on returning from Edinburgh upon the occasion of Earl Grey's banquet, at which he had been delivering a cargo of strawberries, he was chaffed by a friend about providing luxuries to his political opponents. 'Yes,' replied Mr. Jackson; 'but I accompanied them with the prayer "that the biggest berry might stick in the biggest rogue's throat."' In comparatively early life Mr. Jackson, though not a farmer, devoted himself to the study of the science and practice of agriculture; and, as the nature of his employment permitted of leisure to continue his researches on this subject, the result was that in the year 1822 he wrote the first of a series of valuable essays which brought him both fame and reward. In *Blackwood's Magazine* for the year 1833, we

are told that these essays—seven in number, each of which gained a medal—owed their appearance to the liberality of the Highland Society. ‘In each of the subjects,’ says the reviewer, ‘Mr. Jackson has contrived to collect a fund of useful practical knowledge, while the shrewdness of his remarks and comments on the relative merits of the different systems show him to be a man of strong and sagacious understanding.’ Other two essays, written in 1839 and 1843, on the subjects of ‘The Effects of Plantation on Climate’ and ‘The Action and Use of Lime in Agriculture,’ likewise won medals from the Society.

In 1839 Messrs. W. & R. Chambers applied to Mr. Jackson to write a complete treatise on Agriculture and Dairy Husbandry. This he did, and it was published in that firm’s popular people’s editions. Many commendatory notices of the work appeared in various literary journals, both at home and abroad. It was translated into Welsh at the instance of Earl Powis, Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., and Sir R. W. Vaughan, Bart.; a highly complimentary letter was also sent to the author by the last-mentioned gentleman. Nor were Mr. Jackson’s literary efforts confined to one subject. At least two novels were the work of his prolific pen. These were entitled *The Royal Hunt of Roslin* and *Tales of Roslin Castle*. Each showed considerable historical research and a ready gift of weaving together truth and romance in a singularly attractive form.

After the passing of the Scottish Poor Law Act of 1845, Mr. Jackson was appointed Inspector of Poor, and a very kindly guardian of their interests he subsequently proved. As mentioned elsewhere, he was also custodier of the village library, and he acted in the capacity of secretary for every society or association in the parish which required such services. For twenty-four years he served the Curling Club in this capacity,

and their appreciation of his labours was evidenced in the presentation to him by its members, on February 23d, 1838, of a beautiful solid silver ink-stand modelled in the shape of a curling stone, after a design by Mr. Charles Cowan of Valleyfield.

Mr. Jackson died at a good old age, much mourned by a large circle of friends and admirers.

Amongst other men of light and leading who more than fifty years ago largely controlled our village affairs, the name of Dr. JOHN RENTON cannot be overlooked.

This worthy citizen was the son of Mr. Robert Renton, who settled in Penicuik as a medical practitioner in 1790. He was a popular physician, and most successful in the practice of his profession. He took an active part in all the social and political movements of the time, and was a leading opponent of his landlord and patron, Sir George Clerk. Dr. Renton's public spirit was further evidenced by his keen interest and participation in all matters relating to the good of the village and the welfare of its people; in fact, no important movement ever took place without the 'Good Doctor' having some hand in its development. Socially, he was treated as the equal of all the best families of the district, and was their frequent guest; and in those days his practice extended to Castle Craig, and included a large portion of Peeblesshire. Dr. Renton was a keen curler, and it is universally admitted that he composed and issued the advertisement in 1838 calling together the knights of the broom who originated the Royal Caledonian Curling Club on the 25th day of July of that year. Having made a competency, the doctor retired from the practice of his profession in the month of May 1839, and went to reside in Edinburgh, ultimately becoming an active member of its Town Council. Before leaving Penicuik a banquet was given him

by his friends and admirers. It was held in the Gardeners' Hall, and old residents still speak of the enthusiastic terms in which his life and work in Penicuik was then referred to. Dr. Renton died in Edinburgh on 19th April 1865, aged 68 years, and is buried in Penicuik Churchyard.

A very different type of character from either James Jackson or John Renton was their contemporary JOHN LAWSON, portioner in Penicuik. This worthy man was, in his youth, bound apprentice to a tailor, but finding this occupation did not agree with his health, he left it and became a travelling packman or chapman.

Developing a wonderfully successful knack of getting quit of his wares at a good profit, John was enabled in a few years to retire with a modest competency. Thereafter he occupied his mind for a considerable period in studying social and political problems, and spent no little time in advocating his views upon these matters throughout the country.

In appearance he was a thin, spare man ; and while possessed of remarkable shrewdness and sagacity, he had a strong vein of eccentricity in his character. His dress was usually of a light blue serge or woollen cloth, with a pointed cap and knee breeches ; and when he wore stockings, they were usually of a striking colour. He frequently carried a horn, fastened by a belt round his shoulders, which he blew lustily when desiring an audience ; and also a red umbrella. Many amusing stories illustrating his quickness of wit and readiness in repartee are still current in the parish, but these have a tendency to make people forget that he was a man of earnest religious convictions, and one whose mind was much occupied with matters of the deepest public interest. Some events of his life may, however, fittingly be recorded. It is told by those who knew him well that after

accumulating his little fortune he made several unsuccessful efforts to obtain a wife. One of the ladies at Penicuik House was amongst the first objects of his adoration, and, to her amusement, he paid a visit to the mansion-house one fine morning, and duly offered her his hand and heart. On her expressing to him in a becoming way her refusal to entertain his proposal, John, putting his own interpretation upon the motive for his rejection, calmly turning upon his heel remarked, as he left her presence, 'Aweel, miss, if ye've got the pride I've got the siller, so there's nae harm done.'

His plan of testing the temper of the lady who eventually became his wife is also well known in the parish. One day, when she was bleaching linen at the burn-side, John offered to help her to stretch the sheets. When doing this, he suddenly and with purpose let go his hold, the result being that his companion fell into the water. Her quiet rebuke, administered without any display of anger, proved to him most satisfactory, and their subsequent marriage was the result of his somewhat rough though effectual test. Their wedding took place in church before a large audience, and without the services of a clergyman. The bridegroom himself read the marriage service, and conducted the whole ceremony in a decorous and becoming manner. He had previously secured the services of four of his weaver friends to act as witnesses and sign the necessary documents. Mrs. Lawson was a member of the U.P. Church at Bridgend, while her husband attended the Established Church. The Sunday after the wedding they each went their respective ways as usual, both, however, making an extra donation of one guinea to the collection in the plate. I believe that John ultimately became a member of the church to which his wife belonged. Mrs. Lawson was a pious and excellent woman, and proved a helpmate in every sense of the word to her somewhat

erratic spouse. At the time of her death their eldest daughter, Janet, was residing in Edinburgh, and she was surprised, on the morning following that sad event, to see her father drive a horse and cart to the door of her lodgings. This unusual occurrence prepared her for bad news, and her fears were confirmed by the following question which he put to her, 'I've come for ye, Janet woman. Can ye repeat the second petition?' This was the only remark he made, but it was sufficient to make known to her the loss she had sustained.

Like others of his neighbours John used to go out with his barrow to gather horse-droppings for the benefit of his 'yaird.' The proper course is to begin at the first opportunity that presents itself on leaving home, and so onwards. One day that he was thus engaged he was met about the far end of the 'Loan' by Sir George Clerk, who thus accosted him, 'Johnnie, if I were you, I would begin with the empty barrow at the other end, and gather homeward.' 'Na, na,' replied John, 'that wadna dae ava'; ye see, Sir George, there's Opposition here as weel as in Parliament, an' if I *began* at the ither end, there wad be naething left for me to gather.'

In pursuance of his designs for the people's welfare, John frequently sought interviews with high authorities. He was an advanced Liberal in politics, and was a familiar figure at all the processions and demonstrations of the Reform year of 1832. At that time, indeed, he offered himself by advertisement in the Edinburgh newspapers as a candidate for the representation of Peeblesshire; but although he put in an appearance upon the nomination day, it is not on record that he secured either a proposer or seconder.

In his early days he was a stout opponent of Roman Catholic emancipation, and determined to interview King George III. upon

the subject. He sailed accordingly in a smack from Leith in the month of July 1806, and on arrival in London took a room with a Scotchwoman at Hermitage Bridge. After visiting some of the sights of the city, he proceeded on foot to Windsor, and, after ascertaining particulars about His Majesty's movements, put up at an inn for the night. Next morning he made his way to the royal residence, saluting the guards as he passed in becoming form, and, disregarding the astonished looks of a number of magnificently dressed gentlemen who, with bared heads, were awaiting outside the advent of the King for his morning ride, he passed into the Castle. Accosted then by a porter, who demanded his business, John expressed his desire to see the King; but he was informed this was impossible, and that any communication must be addressed through Lord Spencer, his Secretary of State.

On the following day, accordingly, our worthy citizen waited upon his lordship in London, and made known the views he had so deeply at heart. Made anxious, no doubt because of previous attempts against the King's life, and believing John to be a person of unsound mind, Lord Spencer made immediate arrangements for his incarceration in the House of Correction. He was kindly treated there for some time, and when it was evident that he was a harmless and respectable man, overtures were made to him through a messenger to see if he would consent to depart for Scotland immediately. John's reply was: 'Sir, your offer is good; but I have been put in here in a treacherous manner without the smallest charge against me, and as I have a room in London, and my trunk there, I cannot go until it suits my convenience.' The final result was that John, his trunk, and all his belongings were put on board ship and sent home to Leith free of charge. He arrived safely in Penicuik, satisfied with the reflection that his

trip to London was the longest and cheapest journey he had ever made.

This worthy man died in October 1849, but his sayings and doings have been handed down from that time, and even the young folks of the village are familiar with the name and fame of Johnnie Lawson.

It would be pleasant to record in these pages the memories of many other good and useful men who, in times past, have set bright examples to their successors in the performance of their private and public duties. The record of the pure, though lowly life of a man like John Tod, foreman at Bankmill; the public-spirited and active career of a prominent agriculturist like James M'Lean of Braidwood; the faithful and intelligent service of men like the Ramages of Valleyfield or the Cranstons and Robertsons of Esk Mills; the upright demeanour and honourable business dealings of many of our merchants and tradesmen; but space forbids more than this passing allusion to them.

CHAPTER XI.

VARIOUS INCIDENTS.

IN the memorable year 1745, when for about three weeks Prince Charles was holding Court at Holyrood, and investing Edinburgh Castle, parties of his troops were scouring the country round, and levying contributions of food for man and beast. Notwithstanding its remoteness from any main road leading from the metropolis, Penicuik did not upon that occasion escape the attentions of those predatory sections of the Highland host. Baron Clerk, the chief heritor, was not a sympathiser with the Jacobite cause, and he found it convenient to absent himself from home during the invasion. His house was, notwithstanding, made a convenient rendezvous of the chieftains, and his family were frequently compelled to entertain as many as twenty of them at a time. These gentry conducted themselves as if they were masters of the establishment, calling for everything they thought fit, and living on the best that the place could produce in the shape of meat and drink. They further made a levy upon the Baron of 6000 stones of hay and 26 bolls of oats for the use of the horses. The tenants upon the estate had also to contribute their share of the necessary provisions. Mrs. William Simpson, of West Street, for example, tells how the sisters of her grandfather, Mr. Abernethy, then occupying the farm of Ravensneuk, were kept a whole Sunday

afternoon baking scones, to satisfy a party of the hungry caterans who had taken up their quarters with them. They left behind them, by mistake, an Andrea Ferrara sword and a pistol, and these were for a long period treasured by the family as valuable relics of the Rebellion. They have since unfortunately disappeared, and it is not now known in whose possession they may be.

Happily the exciting and tragic events which for the moment have disturbed the continuous calm of our parish life have been few. Sanguinary encounters there may have been within its borders in olden times, when might was right, and when law was disregarded and authority defied ; but history has not required to complete its stores by telling of these, and so they have passed by unrecorded. In times more recent, however, once and again there have occurred distressing events which at the time produced horror and excitement in the parish. About sixty-four years ago there lived at Loanstone a man named Cleghorn. He was a tailor by trade, and during his frequent visits to Penicuik he had occasionally met the daughter of Mr. Dodds, lessee of the hotel, and had formed for her a most romantic attachment. The feeling was not reciprocated, for a young fellow named Henderson appeared to be the object of her affections. Cleghorn was of a jealous and excitable temperament, and, feeling himself neglected, he vowed revenge upon his rival. On a Penicuik fair-day, accordingly, he started, gun in hand, with the avowed purpose of shooting him. In those days there was no regular policeman in the village ; but an active and intelligent citizen named James Nevison, who acted in the dual capacity of constable and sheriff-officer, hearing of Cleghorn's mission, intercepted him at the foot of the plantation brae. Trying first in a friendly way to dissuade the infuriated man from his purpose, but without success, Nevison finally threatened to arrest him. This seems to have roused Cleghorn to a pitch of frenzy,

for, hastily raising his gun to his shoulder, he shot poor Nevison dead upon the spot, and then made off across the fields, pursued by several of the inhabitants. He escaped from them, however, and was never captured, although diligently sought for in all parts of the country. At that time the plantation was very thick on both sides of the road, at the spot where this sad event happened ; and for many years afterwards young and superstitious people would not venture to or from Kirkhill after darkness had set in.

About sixteen years after this occurrence another tragedy, arising from similar causes, took place at Sillerburn. A sweet maiden, named Helen Laing, lived at that little hamlet with her parents. A young man in Penicuik had for a time been paying his addresses to her, and for some reason or another he had fancied her affection for him was cooling. Resolving that no other should have her, and acting from some insane impulse, he one night watched his sweetheart's house, gun in hand, until he saw her shadow cast upon the blind. Firing through the window at that moment he shot the poor girl dead. Making off, her murderer hid all night in a plantation in the vicinity ; but, venturing out in the morning, he learned that his aim had been only too true, and that all was over. Immediately afterwards he turned the muzzle of the gun against himself, and ended his miserable life before any one could interfere. This tragic occurrence cast a great gloom over the entire neighbourhood for many days.

A murder also took place about thirty years ago in the wood above the Free Church, known at that time as Birkiside. A young gamekeeper, in the service of Sir George Clerk, was watching in it a gang of poachers in the exercise of their nefarious calling, and seeing that they were making off, and would soon be beyond his reach, he pluckily approached them, and attempted to effect a

capture. The debased wretches, notwithstanding that they were three to one, and might easily have overpowered him, cruelly shot the poor fellow, and left him writhing in his agony while they made off in different directions. Wounded and dying, he managed to crawl home, but only survived this painful journey a few hours, and was never able to tell who his murderers had been. They were well known ; but sufficient evidence was not forthcoming to convict them, and they unfortunately escaped the doom which they deserved.

There is yet another tale of blood to relate. Between twenty and thirty years ago a fine young man named Robb, son of a travelling jeweller, who lived in Thorburn Terrace, was foully murdered while making his usual round of calls for the purpose of disposing of his trinkets. The deed was witnessed by people in the neighbouring fields ; but they, thinking it was only a quarrel between two tramps, did not see their way to interfere, and so the murderer escaped, and was never more heard of. A rumour, indeed, was afloat some years ago that a soldier in America, believing himself to be dying, had confessed to the deed ; but the story as yet lacks confirmation. These sad though isolated tragedies all brought sorrow and sadness to the surviving relatives of those who were thus cruelly deprived of life, and upon each occasion cast a gloom over the district. In no respect, however, did they compare with the terrible and tragic event which happened last year a few yards beyond the borders of our parish, a description of which no one can think out of place in this volume.

MAURICEWOOD PIT DISASTER.

On the forenoon of 5th September 1889 occurred the ever-memorable Mauricewood pit accident, which caused the death of

sixty-three men and boys. The workings of the colliery are in Glencorse, but with one or two exceptions, those who perished resided in Penicuik parish; and it is fitting that an event which brought such suffering to many homes in our district should be included in this history.

None who heard the dread news on that September forenoon, that Mauricewood pit was on fire, and that the miners were entombed, will ever forget the moments of intense excitement which they caused, and the terrible time of suspense and anxiety which followed. When the fire was first observed there were seventy persons underground. Of this number only seven survived; two of them escaping death in an almost miraculous manner. The fire, which originated in an engine-house at the 160-fathom level, was first observed about twelve o'clock noon by a pony boy, named Mitchell Hamilton, who had come from the east side of the workings to the foot of the main incline. He at once called the attention of Robb, the bottomer, to it. The latter went into the engine-house, and saw that the door leading into the return upset was on fire. Alarmed by the sight, he immediately despatched some boys at the foot of the incline, to run and warn the miners of their danger. A signal had meanwhile come to him to send up the carriage for men at the 80-fathom level, and as it moved away he stepped on to it. Before reaching the place he met smoke, and when the carriage stopped he found quantities of it pouring out at the door leading to the engine-house at the 80-fathom level. The carriage was eventually drawn to the dook-head, and Robb was the only survivor from the 160-fathom level. About the same time that the fire was observed by him, William Gall, John Walker, and Hugh M'Pherson, at the 80-fathom level engine, were surprised and alarmed by bad air and smoke coming to them. This caused them to leave the engine and make for the main in-

cline, where they signalled for the carriage. Smoke followed them in dense volumes. Walker and M'Pherson both lay down, waiting its arrival ; but they were speedily overcome by the noxious fumes. Gall, who was a younger and more active man than his companions, afraid to linger, commenced to climb the incline—an operation which, though difficult and dangerous, he successfully accomplished, reaching the dook-head level in safety. After it became known above what had occurred, Mr. Love, the manager, at once gave orders to run the carriage rapidly back and forward, and, in one of the ascents, four persons, an old man and three boys, were drawn up ; but two were dead, and the other two dying, when they reached the top. Every effort was subsequently made to reach the fatal 80-fathom level, so as to stop the smoke. Many deeds of heroism were performed by the noble band of rescuers, led by Mr. Love and his son—the latter an underground manager at the Greenlaw pit, also belonging to the Shotts Company. The speed of the fan was increased, and the area of the incline was with immense labour reduced by brattice cloth to half its size, in the hope that the increased velocity of the air in the other half would sweep away the smoke. Meanwhile thousands were congregated at a little distance from the shaft's mouth, and sad were the scenes to be witnessed there. Many of the poor women and children, whose husbands and fathers were below, could be seen moving to and fro, mute with suspense and agony. Managers from neighbouring collieries, including Mr. John Anderson of Lochgelly, formerly in charge of the Mauricewood and Greenlaw pits, arrived in quick succession to render aid by advice or active service ; while Mr. A. W. Turnbull, the able secretary and commercial manager of the Shotts Company, hardly ever left the ground. The 80-fathom level was reached about midnight of the 5th, and the bodies of Walker and

M'Pherson recovered. About one o'clock P.M. on the following day, or 25 hours after the fire broke out, the 120-fathom was reached, and about an hour afterwards the heroic rescue party arrived at the bottom. It was found that the fire had extended from the engine-house along the east-side level, and the road along which it had passed was nearly closed with heavy falls of *débris*. Near the foot of the incline, and between it and the level workings on the west side, the bodies of nineteen workers were found, who had succumbed to the fatal smoke. These were sent to the surface, and taken in carts and other conveyances to the homes which they had left in health and strength in the morning. The fire-engine hose was then brought to bear upon the flames, and every effort made to recover all the bodies; but the rising of the water stopped further operations at that level. An endeavour was then made to reach the east-side workings, where the majority of the workers were entombed by the door or the air-crossing at the 120-fathom level. On opening it smoke again came on to the main incline, and the effort was abandoned with great reluctance, and, in the full assurance that there could be no living man below, it was then decided to close the mine, and an air-tight scaffold was placed upon the top of the pit.

The funeral services, in connection with the interment of twenty-four of the deceased miners on Sabbath, the 8th September, brought multitudes of visitors to the village. It was reckoned that about ten thousand spectators and mourners witnessed the sad spectacle. Services were conducted for the Presbyterians in the U.P. Church, in the Fieldsend Mission Hall for Episcopalians, and at the Roman Catholic Chapel for members of that communion. Outside the churches the procession was formed in the following order:—Volunteers, under command of Captain Craster, Presbyterian funerals, Episcopalian funerals, and a

Roman Catholic funeral, public bodies, general mourners, Boys' Brigade, and military. Eloquent allusions to the sad disaster were made in all the churches by the local clergymen. Temporary relief and tender help had been rendered to the distressed widows and children in Shottstown by the Fieldsend Mission workers, organised by the Rev. S. R. Crockett, of the Free Church, and by many others, whose hearts were stirred to aid the poor sufferers.

In response to a meeting summoned by Mr. Cowan of Beeslack, a representative gathering met in Mr. M'Kerrow's church on Monday evening, the 9th September, to organise relief and solicit subscriptions for those whose breadwinners had perished in the disaster. Sir Charles Dalrymple, Bart., M.P., Messrs. John Cowan of Beeslack, C. W. Cowan of Loganhouse, A. W. Inglis of Loganbank, John J. Wilson, banker, and the Reverends S. R. Crockett, R. Thomson, J. M'Kerrow of Penicuik, and J. Thomson, of Roslyn Chapel, took part in the proceedings. An influential general committee of county gentlemen was formed, and a large local committee appointed, with Rev. J. M'Kerrow as convener, to administer such funds as might be collected for the sufferers. On the 11th September a meeting of Edinburgh citizens was also held in the Council Chambers for the purpose of appointing a committee to co-operate with the Lord Provost's Committee in collecting subscriptions. The result of the appeals by the county and city committees was that about £20,000 was contributed by a generous public; and this sum was finally placed under the control of a joint aggregate committee, with a secretary and treasurer in Edinburgh, and a local secretary and treasurer in Penicuik. It is satisfactory to record that about £1200 of the total amount collected was contributed by the parishes of Penicuik and Glencorse.

On the 4th October the mine was re-opened; but three days afterwards smoke was again observed ascending the pipe upcast at

the 80-fathom level. Stoppings were afterwards placed on the roads leading downwards, and the fire was finally overcome. A weary time was, however, to ensue before the water which had accumulated in the mine could be got rid of. It was not until about the 16th of March 1890 that the 160-fathom level was reached, and it was the end of the month before the thirty-six bodies left in the mine were recovered. Three were found in the sump at the bottom of the main incline, twenty-nine were found in the eastern workings, including George Muir, the oversman. The remaining four bodies were found in the west side return air-way. With the exception of a few words of comfort, addressed to his wife and children, scratched upon his flask by good Thomas Meikle, no other message from the dead was discovered. That the poor fellows had lived for a little while is evident from the fact that two barricades had been erected by them in the intake air-ways to keep back the smoke. The power of man, however, could not save them, for it was the will of Providence that they should be taken from this life while busy toiling for the dear ones whom they were never again to see upon the earth.

The usual inquiries by the Procurator-Fiscal and by the Inspector of Mines were made after the accident. A special inquiry, under section 45 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, was also held by direction of her Majesty's Secretary of State. Evidence was then led at considerable length, and it was satisfactorily proved that there was no cause for any serious reflection upon the owners of the mine.

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